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20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,219

MONDAY MARCH 20 1995

President goes to Moscow parade

Clinton snub to Major over VE-Day

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON, JILL SHERMAN AND NICHOLAS WATT

PRESIDENT CLINTON delivered a strong rebuff to John Major last night during a tense 25-minute telephone conversation intended to heal the deepening rift between the two leaders.

Mr Clinton confirmed that he would not be attending VE-Day celebrations on the weekend of May 6-7 in Britain: he surprised the Prime Minister by saying that he would be going instead to Moscow on May 9. He is sending Vice-President Al Gore to represent America at the British ceremony.

The snub, which threatens to plunge already frosty relations between Britain and America to a new low, countered a firm rebuke for Mr Clinton from Mr Major for allowing Gerry Adams to raise funds in the United States.

The Prime Minister also used the telephone call to give a blunt message to Mr Clinton that Sinn Fein had not moved far enough on decommissioning the IRA's arsenal to enter into face-to-face talks with British ministers.

British and American officials gave different interpretations of the telephone call. British sources claimed it was "businesslike and thorough", while White House officials said the two leaders had had a "positive and friendly" exchange.

Mr Major is due to arrive for a visit in the United States on April 4, and White House officials were anxious last night to talk down any new rift with Mr Clinton. "We do have a warm and special relationship with Prime Minister Major and will continue to build on that," the White House said.

British Government sources were furious last night, however, that the Americans had broken a tacit agreement not to talk about the VE-Day celebrations. Sources in London said: "We agreed that we would only say that the visits were discussed and a statement would follow later."

On the IRA, Mr Major said

in his call that there would have to be "substantial progress" in decommissioning weapons before Sinn Fein could join all-party talks on the same basis as the constitutional parties. Although the leaders agreed that decommissioning of weapons was vital, it was evident after the call, which had been delayed for eight days, that tensions still existed between Mr Major and Mr Clinton.

Mr Major's anger seemed mainly directed at President Clinton for allowing Sinn Fein to raise funds in the United States. A statement issued by Downing Street last night said: "The Prime Minister expressed concern about fundraising by Sinn Fein and the purposes to which these funds might be put."

"He said that there was a long history of funds raised in the United States being used to support the IRA's activities and that it was vital that money should not be used to re-stock the IRA's arsenal."

In Dublin, John Bruton, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, issued his strongest challenge so far to the IRA to decommission its weapons when he said yesterday that there was "no rational justification" for the terrorists to hold on to their arms. Mr Bruton, who has angered Sinn Fein in recent days with his calls for IRA arms to be decommissioned, said that he was exasperated by the lack of progress on the issue. He told

Irish Radio: "The important issue is that there should be a clear political commitment to progressively get rid of these guns."

However, Mr Adams, speaking in Washington, said that repeated demands for weapons to be decommissioned could undermine his position within the republican movement. He said that the IRA would split if he "danced to the British tune" on the arms issue.

Earlier yesterday hopes had been raised that the Sinn Fein talks with ministers would start within the next two weeks in the wake of a claim from Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness that there was considerable common ground between the two parties, and talks could start within 14 days. Downing Street sources, however, made clear that any reassurance received from Sinn Fein had not gone far enough.

Mr Clinton's decision on VE-Day will disappoint the Government, but American and British officials said last night that it should not be seen as a further slight to London. The difficulties, officials said, were purely logistical.

Mr Clinton attended last year's D-Day commemorations in Britain and France, from which Russia was excluded, and would cause grave offence by staying away from Moscow this year. President Yeltsin said last week that he would exclude all military hardware from the Russian parade in an attempt to entice Mr Clinton, who was nervous of attending while Russian troops are suppressing the revolt in Chechnya.

The President also wants to attend a VE-Day celebration in Washington before he leaves, and simply could not make the ceremonies in London and Paris as well. Mr Clinton is expected to stay on in Moscow after the VE-Day ceremonies for a summit meeting with Mr Yeltsin.

William Rees-Mogg, and Diary, page 16



Yeltsin: Will welcome Clinton on May 9



Alastair Paxton, above, with his mother, Jill, yesterday and below, aged two, when undergoing chemotherapy

Hope for cancer girl after survival of boy 'not worth treating'

BY BILL FROST

A MOTHER who was told that her child's chances of surviving acute myeloid leukaemia were hopeless, yesterday urged the parents of "Girl B", who is suffering from the same illness, never to give up hope. As she spoke, her son was happily playing at the family home in contradiction of a prognosis 12 years ago that he was "not worth treating".

In a letter to *The Times* today, Mrs Jill Paxton describes how her son Alastair overcame his illness to become healthy and normal. She also praises the consultant who decided that the boy should be treated, despite the weight of contradictory medical opinion.

Staff at the London Clinic continued to monitor the progress yesterday of 10-year-old "Girl B", whose future looked even more bleak after the Court of Appeal backed Cambridge Health Authority's refusal to fund treatment on the NHS. However, an anonymous donor stepped in and offered to foot the bill.

On the strength of her experience, Mrs Paxton, from

Old Sodbury, in Avon, told the girl's parents that they should remain optimistic. "Alastair's case proves that remarkable progress is possible, even when you are told that the child has little or no hope of surviving this disease," she added.

Mrs Paxton, a 37-year-old mother of four, recalled how doctors told her that a diagnosis of acute myeloid leukaemia was tantamount to a death sentence. "The doctors said that the illness left no survivors; maybe one or two people across the world had pulled through," she said.

Mrs Paxton and her husband Chris, a general practitioner, were "cast into the depths of despair" when eight-week-old Alastair underwent chemotherapy in 1982. "We couldn't let him go, we couldn't let him die despite what some people were telling us."

"Fortunately, a consultant at the Bristol Children's Hospital was willing to proceed. We ourselves were torn between not wanting Alastair to die and not wanting to prolong his suffering if there



really was so little chance of survival," she said.

Two years after treatment her son suffered a relapse but again rallied, said Mrs Paxton. "Once again we went through torment while he was being treated, and once again he came through." Fears that Alastair would suffer brain damage from the radiotherapy proved groundless.

Letters, page 17

The Pru sues PowerGen

The Prudential is suing PowerGen over the controversial oil contamination fuel at Richborough power station in Kent, which it says is damaging crops on a farm nearby. The blow comes as Ed Wallis, PowerGen chief executive, faces MPs tomorrow to defend his pay. Page 40

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Byline The Times persons
Austria 50p 40p; Belgium 8p 80p;
Canada 50p 40p; Canada 50p 40p;
Cyprus 10p 20p; Denmark 10p 15p;
Finland 10p 15p; France 10p 15p;
Germany 10p 15p; Gibraltar 10p 15p;
Greece 10p 15p; Iceland 10p 15p;
Ireland 10p 15p; Italy 10p 15p;
Japan 10p 15p; Korea 10p 15p;
Latvia 10p 15p; Lithuania 10p 15p;
Malta 10p 15p; Monaco 10p 15p;
Norway 10p 15p; Portugal 10p 15p;
Spain 10p 15p; Sweden 10p 15p;
Switzerland 10p 15p; Tunisia 10p 15p;
USA 10p 15p.



Queen begins tour 'by back door'

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN CAPE TOWN

FOR the first time in 48 years, the Queen yesterday set foot on South African soil as she began a week-long state visit to a country that had until recently been excluded from the world community for more than three decades.

She came in by the back door, a purely administrative arrival to enable her to transfer from her chartered British Airways 767 jet from London to a South African Air Force helicopter that whisked her the 20 miles to Simonstown naval base. There she boarded the Royal Yacht Britannia for the voyage back to Cape Town and the promise of a grand

seaborne entrance to Cape Town today. Wearing a grey suit and dashing matching hat, both echoing the brief cloud cover, the Queen was greeted without ceremony at the airport by Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's First Deputy President. She was then presented with a bouquet by the young daughter of Mr Mbeki's personal assistant.

At Simonstown she was welcomed by a cheering crowd of several hundred naval personnel and their families.

After sailing overnight round the Cape of Good Hope, the Queen and the Duke of

Edinburgh, who joined her yesterday from a visit to Madagascar, will cruise into Table Bay in a manner reminiscent of the start of the last royal tour in 1947, when George VI, Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, and the then Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret made the same dramatic entrance after sailing all the way from Britain on the battleship HMS Vanguard.

In those leisurely postwar days, the visit lasted three months. This time the Queen will spend just six full days in the country, but that is a long time by the standards of jet-

age touring. Buckingham Palace officials say she regards the tour as being on a par with her historic visits to China and Russia.

The Queen will today be formally welcomed by President Mandela, to whom she is expected to award the Order of Merit, one of the highest decorations in her gift and markedly rarer than a knighthood.

The name of Winnie Mandela, the President's estranged wife, does not appear Continued on page 3, col 7

Economy triumph, page 9
Diary, page 16

Red setter is Cruft's top dog

JOSHUA the red setter was crowned Cruft's supreme champion last night to become Britain's top dog.

Four year old Joshua — kennel name Starchelle Chicago Bear — is owned by Rachel Shaw, from Batley, West Yorkshire, who was lucky to make it into the final after tripping and falling over in front of judges on the way to qualifying.

"I've always been clumsy," she said. "I'm just glad Joshua didn't put a foot wrong."

Results, page 18

Small sports clubs are the latest Lottery winners

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN AND EDWARD GORMAN

A SCHOOL sports centre and a tiny village cricket club are among the winners of the first cash handouts from the National Lottery to be announced today. Grants totalling £7 million will be shared between 35 sports projects, with an emphasis on local community schemes.

The biggest award is £750,000 to the Arthur Terry School in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, to help pay for a new £14 million sports centre. One of the smallest recipients is Houghton on

the Hill cricket club in southeast Leicestershire, which will receive £9,267 towards the £26,000 cost of its new pavilion.

John Kerry, the cricket club secretary, said he had not believed such a small-scale project would be among the first winners. The club had been using the local pub as its headquarters. "We are absolutely thrilled to bits about this, as is everyone in the village," Mr Kerry said.

The Scarborough Water Ski Club, which has 55 members, will get £7,000 towards the £15,000 cost of a new training area for visiting school par-

ties. David Longthorn, a club spokesman, said: "I felt we were a deserving cause because we've got a lot of enthusiastic and hardworking members."

The Amateur Rowing Association is awarded £110,300 towards the cost of equipment for the national squad in the run-up to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, America.

Most of the awards, to be announced by the Sports Council, are worth less than £100,000, reflecting its commitment to grass-roots projects. At least 19 of the grants will go to rural schemes, traditionally areas of poor

leisure provision. In all cases, the recipients of grants are expected to raise some of the money for their proposed schemes themselves.

They will be presented at a ceremony in London attended by Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, and Rodney Walker, the Sports Council chairman, who said: "The impact of the National Lottery's cash injection to sport cannot be underestimated. In this year alone we will be giving

Continued on page 2, col 6
Matthew Parris, page 16
Saturday numbers, page 20

Once in a generation - a truly great thriller

KOLYMSKY HEIGHTS

LIONEL DAVIDSON

"Possibly better than any other thriller over the past twenty-five years"

DAILY MAIL

"One of the most powerful thrillers I have ever read"

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US investigates Mark Thatcher's business affairs



Thatcher: his former business partner has filed a lawsuit

MARK THATCHER'S financial difficulties deepened last night after it emerged that the American authorities are conducting an investigation into his business affairs. Mr Thatcher, 43, who is fighting a £14 million lawsuit in Houston, Texas, is the subject of a separate inquiry by US tax investigators.

Gaynelle Jones, the Attorney in Houston, has ordered an examination of allegations against Mr Thatcher that are contained in a lawsuit filed by his former business partner, John Jay Laughlin. Up to £6 million is alleged by Mr Laughlin to have vanished from companies associated with the former Prime Minister's son.

"It is a fishing expedition because of the allegations thrown up by the Laughlin deposition," one official in Houston said. "It could take months."

The inquiry could involve a member of President Clinton's Cabinet. Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, was a director of X-Part Corporation, a Texas company that was a substantial investor in Emergency Networks, a Dallas company associated with Mark Thatcher.

Emergency Networks went bankrupt and X-Part is listed in bankruptcy documents as

■ Up to £6 million is alleged to have vanished from companies associated with the former Prime Minister's son. He is also the subject of a tax inquiry that could involve a member of President Clinton's Cabinet, Andrew Pierce writes

owning 43.95 per cent of the stock. The tax investigation centres on Mr Thatcher's dealings with the two companies.

Lawyers were unable to serve a summons on Mr Thatcher at his Dallas home, 250 miles from Houston, because he was playing golf in Florida. But they are expected to resort to placing a notice in the *Daily Court Review*, published in the Houston Court, which will give him 20 days to respond.

Agents working for the Internal Revenue Service have questioned Mr Laughlin about a complex web of financial deals centred on Ameristar Fuels Corporation, which he ran with Mr Thatcher, and the Grantham Company, named after Lady Thatcher's birthplace. When the Grantham Company was set up in 1987, Mr Thatcher said that it

dealt with electronics, leasing and communications.

The aviation fuels company was sold last week for an undisclosed sum under a bankruptcy scheme. The company, which went bankrupt last August, was sold to a company based in Minnesota. The Margaret Thatcher Foundation has been moved from the company premises.

It had been run by Mr Thatcher's business associate David Wallace. It was the dismissal of Mr Laughlin by Mr Wallace that triggered the lawsuit. Mr Laughlin's lawsuit accused Mr Thatcher of "raping and pillaging" the company. In 1991 Mr Thatcher's Grantham Company entered into a management agreement with Ameristar to try to improve its financial position. Mr Wallace said:

"Grantham's role was to resolve the company's severe financial difficulties. With the sale that goal has been achieved." Mr Laughlin, however, took a different view. "The theft of my company has been completed under bankruptcy reorganisation. This in no way means the lawsuit is over. I will fight them all the way to the Supreme Court."

Baroness Thatcher declined to answer questions about her son when she appeared at the International Book Fair at Olympia yesterday to promote the paperback version of her memoirs.

The lawsuit is the latest episode involving Mr Thatcher to have embarrassed his mother. An early example was his decision to model Japanese clothes in Tokyo when she was "barring Britain". Speculation about his business practices arose in 1984 with reports that he had received a commission for helping a British firm to win a contract to build a university and hospital in Oman. In April that year he announced he would leave Britain for the United States, reportedly to keep "a low profile". His mother claimed that he had been hounded out of the country by the press.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blair to reduce block vote further

Tony Blair signalled his intention yesterday to go ahead with plans to reduce the trade union block vote at the Labour conference, indicating that as soon as party membership rose high enough he would act to cut the union vote from 70 to 50 per cent.

The Labour leader hinted that he would not set a rate for a national minimum wage before the next election, and gave no commitment to introduce one immediately. After his success over rewriting Clause Four, Mr Blair also told Jonathan Dimbleby on ITV that Labour should not be complacent about the need to continue building trust with voters.

Rocket jobs 'safe'

Civilian contractors are to take over the closure-threatened Royal Artillery rocket range at Beacombe in the Western Isles. The decision by Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, to put the base out to tender follows a hard-fought local campaign to save the range and the 800 jobs that depend on it. Contracts should be finalised by 1997.

Midwives' vote

The Royal College of Midwives has voted to scrap its 115-year tradition of not taking industrial action. The college, angry at the Government's 1 per cent national pay award, will now ballot its members on what action to take in their pay campaign. The college's 36,000 members have indicated that they are prepared to carry out a wide range of action.

Crash-test call

Foreign motor manufacturers have rejected European recommendations for more stringent crash tests. British officials will begin a campaign today to oppose the watered-down proposals put forward by French and Italian carmakers. A group of MPs has tabled a Commons motion calling on the European Parliament to demand tougher tests.

Crossword win

Only three of the 187 competitors at the York regional final of *The Times Crossword* championship yesterday completed all four puzzles without a mistake. The winner was David Howell, 41, assistant head of mathematics at Roundhay School, Leeds. Second was Gerard Conway, 33, from Blackburn. David Parry, 44, of Halifax, was third.

Ministers back Chancellor after 'out on limb' charge

Right warns Major to bring Clarke into line

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING rightwingers will tonight step up the pressure on Kenneth Clarke to toe the government line on tax cuts and Europe as part of a concerted attempt to isolate the Chancellor.

After a private meeting of the influential 92 group in the Commons, its leaders are expected to deliver a stern message to the Prime Minister, warning him that unless the party unites behind a right-wing agenda it will fare disastrously in the local elections in May.

The 92 group meeting follows the ferocious attack on Mr Clarke in an editorial in the Thatcherite magazine *Conservative Way Forward*. It accuses him of being "out on a limb" and undermining Mr Major by pushing his own agenda in favour of a single currency.

The editorial, penned several weeks ago, suggests that if Mr Clarke continues to promote "federalism in disguise" he should resign. Rightwingers also fear, in the light of the Chancellor's remarks last week that the "feel-good" factor may be delayed for two years, that he will not go ahead with tax cuts in the next Budget.

Sir George Gardiner, editor of the magazine and chairman of the 92 group, said last night: "Kenneth Clarke should not get in the way here. He should follow the line of the Prime Minister and the rest of the party."

The editorial was widely



Gardiner: editorial an attempt to undermine Mr Clarke's prospects in any leadership challenge

seen as an attempt by the Right to isolate the Chancellor and undermine his prospects if there were any leadership challenge later this year. The Right's tactics at present are to support Mr Major, provided he delivers a sceptical agenda on Europe and early tax cuts.

Ministers rallied to Mr Clarke's side yesterday as they made a desperate plea for party unity. Michael Portillo, who would be one of Mr Clarke's chief rivals in a leadership contest, was quick to criticise the attack on his colleague. However, he echoed comments in the editorial about the need to fight the next election on clear Conservative policies with a strong emphasis

on the nation's sovereignty. "The time for factions is now past. We are getting too close to the election for factional struggle. What we need to do is turn our guns on the enemy, the Labour Party," he said.

The Prime Minister had set out a policy on Europe behind which the whole party should unite. "It is absolutely right that none of us, whatever views you might have, should pursue a personal agenda," Mr Portillo said.

David Hunt, the Public Services Minister, and David Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, also voiced strong support for Mr Clarke. "He is an able man, and God knows the Government has few

enough of them," Mr Mellor said.

However, it was clear that Mr Clarke's double gaffe last week — admitting the delay in the "feel-good" factor and then referring to a nappy factory in Consett, Co Durham, that had closed — has irritated not only backbenchers but also senior rightwingers in the Government. There is also concern about the relationship between Mr Major and Mr Clarke, which is said to be becoming increasingly frosty.

Mr Major faces further trouble this week after a threat by the whipless rebels to defy the Government in a Commons vote on the common agricultural policy on Tuesday. Labour is tabling an amendment on the policy supporting an attack on waste and fraud, which could get support from the Ulster Unionists and some whipless rebels.

Business managers are keen to draw the rebels back into the party, but it was clear last night that if they voted against the Government on Tuesday there was little chance of the whip being restored before Easter. Government sources also pointed out that seven of the nine whipless rebels had voted with the Government on the same issue last year.

Two Tory MPs said at the weekend they would not be seeking re-election at the next general election. Sir Tony Durant (Reading West) is 67 and has served more than 20 years in the Commons. Sir Kenneth Carlisle, 53, has been MP for Lincoln since 1979.



Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, after being installed as Chancellor of the Open University in Birmingham on Saturday. She also received an honorary degree

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RECIPIENTS OF LOTTERY MONEY			
Wells Town FC	90,349	9,872	
Seaford CC	12,797	6,942	
Houghton on the Hill Cricket Club	25,676	9,267	
Boston Phoenix FC	37,240	24,240	
Cosby VII Hall Sports/Comm Cen	105,000	68,000	
Middlesex University	536,023	186,023	
Amateur Rowing Association	208,820	116,300	
Redbridge Sports Cen Trst Ltd	125,382	75,382	
Silsworth Cricket Club	105,000	40,000	
Durham Indoor Bowls Club Ltd	750,000	450,000	
Fylde Rugby Club	260,000	125,000	
Mobberley Cricket Club	5,273	2,524	
Footscray FC (Bury FC)	94,210	50,000	
Macclesfield Tennis Club	122,200	22,200	
Chute Pavilion	220,800	77,217	
Maidenhead Rowing Club	617,000	400,000	
South Wight Borough Council	142,800	90,000	
St Chart Cricket/Rec Grnd Trst	65,000	21,500	
Ash Bowling Club	68,813	32,613	
Battle Cricket Club	10,011	6,311	
Wendon Cricket Club	58,500	28,750	
Slintbridge Playing Fields Comm	74,368	30,358	
Ston Easton Village Club	32,000	7,050	
Cargroan Yacht Club	76,038	39,061	
Chard Rugby Club	26,000	8,750	
Redmarley Village Hall Comm	120,000	35,000	
Ilminster Tennis Club	67,714	44,014	
Birmingham LIA	1,426,000	752,600	
Wellington Playing Field	208,278	112,278	
Yarmouth Rugby Club	54,000	35,000	
Harrogate Indoor Bowling Club	158,500	47,500	
Roundhay Lawn Tennis Club	21,948	13,169	
Scarborough Water Ski Club	15,000	7,000	
Cilton Hosp Alliance Cricket Club	60,198	37,198	
Norfolk	90,349	9,872	
Norfolk	12,797	6,942	
Leicester	25,676	9,267	
Leicester	37,240	24,240	
Leicester	105,000	68,000	
Leicester	536,023	186,023	
Leicester	208,820	116,300	
Leicester	125,382	75,382	
Leicester	105,000	40,000	
Leicester	750,000	450,000	
Leicester	260,000	125,000	
Leicester	5,273	2,524	
Leicester	94,210	50,000	
Leicester	122,200	22,200	
Leicester	220,800	77,217	
Leicester	617,000	400,000	
Leicester	142,800	90,000	
Leicester	65,000	21,500	
Leicester	68,813	32,613	
Leicester	10,011	6,311	
Leicester	58,500	28,750	
Leicester	74,368	30,358	
Leicester	32,000	7,050	
Leicester	76,038	39,061	
Leicester	26,000	8,750	
Leicester	120,000	35,000	
Leicester	67,714	44,014	
Leicester	1,426,000	752,600	
Leicester	208,278	112,278	
Leicester	54,000	35,000	
Leicester	158,500	47,500	
Leicester	21,948	13,169	
Leicester	15,000	7,000	
Leicester	60,198	37,198	

Lottery awards

Continued from page 1
awards averaging over £10 million per month, ranging from the multi-million pound projects to small community schemes.

At a separate presentation in Edinburgh today, The Sports Council of Scotland will announce grants worth £1.7 million towards seven schemes. Five "good causes" — sport, arts, heritage, charities and the millennium celebrations — are expected to receive around £9 billion of National Lottery's estimated £32 billion proceeds over the next seven years.

□ The holders of two tickets shared an £8 million jackpot from Saturday night's lottery draw.

Matthew Parris, page 16
Saturday numbers, page 20

Baring trust cuts cash

Continued from page 1
further requests for money to fund its annual general meeting in the third week of June. Mr Carrington said that the foundation was determined to continue funding the arts and organisations in the voluntary sector, but on a much smaller scale than previously.

"It is likely that we will want to do something that is more sharply focused either in terms of activities or geographical area than before, although we will still want to give to as wide a range of organisations as possible," he said.

The Baring Foundation was founded in 1969 to distribute money to good causes. It has consistently ranked among the top ten grant making trusts in the country. In 1994 it

awarded grants worth £16.4 million, some of them spread over several years and more than 40 per cent of them to small organisations.

The foundation's single largest payment last year was £380,000 to the Housing Association's Charitable Trust, which helps the homeless. Most of its grants were much smaller, however, such as the £45,000 grant made last year to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art for the construction of new teaching and performance block.

Before the Barings collapse at the end of February and the subsequent sale of most of its businesses to ING, the foundation owned all of the ordinary, non-voting shares in the merchant banking arm of the Barings group. In 1994, the

Foundation received £3 million in dividend payments from the shares and a further £8 million out of the bank's profits. This income has now totally dried up as the Foundation no longer owns the shares.

Although ING has no financial obligations to fund the foundation, Mr Carrington hopes that the two may be able to work together. "We hope that the new owners will come to see the foundation as important," he said.

The foundation, which is still housed in Barings' City headquarters, has investments of its own, valued at around £50 million at the end of 1993, which give it its annual income.

Letters, page 17

It was a filthy profession, but this money was adding, and one addiction led to another, and they were all going to be

Bombardiers Po Bronson

"Filled with people Nick Leeson could do business with"

GUARDIAN

"Bombardiers makes the real crash of Barings Bank seem almost inevitable"

NEW YORK POST

"The most entertaining depiction of greed and dishonesty on Wall Street ever to see print... Bombardiers often calls *Liar's Poker* to mind — only it's even more outrageous"

BUSINESS WEEK

"The Catch-22 of the Reagan/Bush/Clinton era"

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Secker & Warburg

Raid on cock fight finds 14 victims

By EDWARD GORMAN

SIX men were arrested yesterday when police raided a cockfighting ring in the first such operation in ten years.

Forty-four dead and 14 live birds were found in the swoop on an illegal cockfighting ring in Kellie, Co Down, after a tip-off. The cockfights were removed from the area.

Dom. Officers said a 30-year-old man was taken away for his own protection.

A Durham Police spokesman said: "This operation has been a well-planned event with several officers in which cockfighting was being carried out."

The six arrested men, aged between 30 and 40, are being held on police bail for 12 months.

Among the implements found were a hammer, a saw, a crowbar and a pair of pliers. The police said they were looking for evidence of the cockfighting ring.

Children hooked on temazepam

Doctors demand withdrawal of killer sleeping pill

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS in Scotland are calling for the sleeping tablet temazepam to be banned because of the part it is playing in the deaths and mutilation of drug addicts. Last year, 37 million capsules were prescribed in Scotland. Black-market capsules are now being peddled to children in school playgrounds.

Temazepam capsules are liquified by addicts through heating and then injected intravenously. The drug solidifies in the veins, often causing vascular problems which in some cases have led to the amputation of limbs.

Dr Tom Gilhooly, of the Parkhead Health Centre in Glasgow, says the only solution is to blacklist the drug. "The situation is terrible. This drug is killing people. They're losing their arms and legs. It's causing carnage."

Dr Gilhooly, who also works for the Glasgow Drug Crisis Centre, says 90 per cent of the centre's clients inject temazepam and heroin, a particularly lethal cocktail. "Tem-

azepam contributes to one-third of the drug deaths in Britain. We have banned it at our practice but it needs to be taken out of circulation altogether."

At the beginning of the year, the supply of temazepam in Glasgow dried up after the theft of a cross-border consignment of the drug. The price per capsule rose from £1.50 to £2. Last month the streets were flooded again and the price dropped.

Doctors believe that the prevalence of temazepam in Scottish schools may lead to government action against the drug.

Dr Fiona Jamieson, of the Community Drug Problem Service in Edinburgh, told a recent BBC Scotland investigation into the matter that the users were becoming younger. "They are now introduced in the playground. It's a bit like taking sweets," she said.

Dr Ian McKee, who is fighting the temazepam problem in Wester Hailes in Edinburgh, says: "I don't think

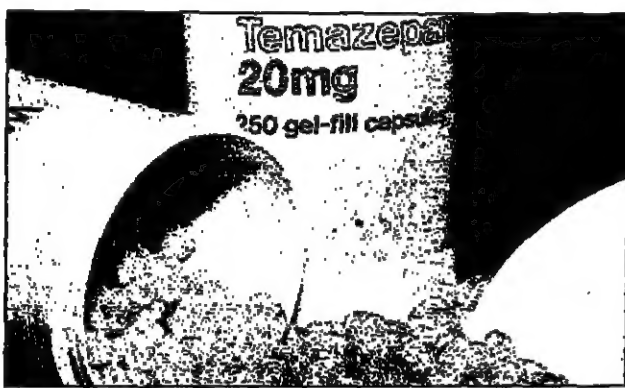
society has bothered with this problem up to now because they've thought it's a problem among down-and-outs who can't look after themselves. They worry only when they find it entering the playgrounds of affluent middle-class areas. Something should have been done about it years ago."

Dr Gilhooly agrees. "The Department of Health have not done anything about it because they are worried that, if it is taken off the market, a cheap sleeping pill will be replaced with more expensive drugs. But we have 12 alternatives which we can prescribe. They are all cheaper or the same price and they are just as effective."

Dr Gilhooly says that because temazepam is not a controlled drug no adequate checks are made on the supply and that dealers have in the past obtained as many as 5 million capsules in one go, illegally.

"People say we should make it a controlled drug. But I don't accept that argument. We should go all the way and ban it. All we lose is a sleeping tablet. These young kids are losing their lives. Their deaths at the ages of 18 and 19 are tragic. Their parents never get over it."

Dr Gilhooly says that temazepam is intensely addictive. "They get the rush in seconds while they are still injecting it into their arms. We cannot wipe out the heroin problem but we could wipe out the temazepam problem by banning the manufacture of the drug."



Temazepam pills are liquified and injected by addicts

Drug barons reap rich rewards from rave scene

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DRUG barons on the underground "rave scene" are exploiting a growing black market for temazepam among young people. Trafficking in the drug offers the gangs low risks, high profits and short prison sentences. Senior police commanders believe gangs are now moving away from heroin and cocaine into temazepam.

Officers are pressing the Home Office to tighten legislation on drug controls. Possession of a single dose of temazepam carries no penalty. It is currently listed as a class C drug under the 1985 Misuse of Drugs Act, which means that the maximum punishment for dealing is five years.

Legitimate use of the drug has dropped by half since the 1970s as doctors have become increasingly aware of its dan-

gers. Home Office officials have recently been briefed by detectives from the South East regional crime squad about the rise of dealing in temazepam by criminals.

The gangs use fraud to obtain the drug wholesale from legitimate pharmaceutical companies and distributors in Britain and abroad. Millions of doses can be bought legitimately for less than £100,000. The investment could return millions from the black market as the gangs parcel out the drugs to a network of street dealers.

Police across the country have seized more than three million capsules in recent operations. Intelligence work suggests that the drug is growing in popularity on the rave and dance scene in London, where it is beginning

to replace Ecstasy. The capsules, which are shaped like eggs, sell for £2 or £3 each. They are often taken with alcohol, a combination that makes users unsteady on their legs and has caused them to dub the pills "jellies" or "wobbly eggs".

London traffickers have become the main suppliers for a thriving market in Scotland. A large market has been built up among addicts who inject the drug. They first turned to it to bring them down from heroin but found that it was addictive in its own right.

At one stage addicts simply broke up the pills and injected the liquid. When the pharmaceutical companies replaced the liquid with a gel, the addicts began heating the gel into a form that could be injected.

Raid on cock fight finds 14 victims

BY EDWARD GORMAN

SIX men were arrested yesterday when police and RSPCA inspectors raided a cock fight in the first such operation for ten years.

Fourteen dead cockerels and 40 live birds were recovered in the swoop on an allotment shed in Kelloe, Co Durham, after a tip-off. The dead birds were removed for examination. Officers said a boy, aged eight, was taken away for his own protection.

A Durham Police spokesman said: "This appears to have been a well-organised event with seating round a ring in which birds appeared to have been pitted against each other."

The RSPCA said one of its inspectors had called in the police after going to the village to check information received from a member of the public. The six arrested men, aged in their 30s to 40s, are mostly local and were expected to be released on police bail. About 12 people managed to escape during the raid.

Among implements seized were sharpened spurs, weighing machinery and a board that listed the names, weights and betting odds on the birds. "We seized razor-sharp spurs that are attached to the legs of the birds so that they can kick each other to death," an



Fighting cock: a battle to the death

RSPCA spokeswoman said. "These fights are savage and often last only seconds before one of the birds is killed. Cock fighting is cruel and barbaric. It is not only illegal to stage such events but also to watch them."

She said the RSPCA was concerned that cock fights were taking place in many locations across the country. "We believe cock fighting is happening somewhere in Britain every weekend but, because of its secretive nature, it is very rare for arrests to be made. The last one was in 1985 at Bridgnorth, Shropshire, and there have been only about four arrests in the past 50 years," she said.

The spokeswoman said the society could not tell whether the practice was on the increase because it had only limited information and no figures for comparisons.

People convicted of organising cock fighting can face up to six months in jail or fines of £5,000 under the Protection of Animals Act 1911.

Spring is sprung ahead of schedule

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

THE first day of spring officially arrives tomorrow but most people would be forgiven for thinking the season had long been under way. Spurred on by the unusually warm, wet and frost-free winter, many spring flowers are blooming weeks ahead of schedule and some birds and animals have started nesting.

Wardens of woodland in the southern counties report carpets of early primroses and bluebells and continual birdsong since February. Wildlife enthusiasts have spotted young squirrels in dreys, mistle thrushes that have already hatched their eggs and bats and hedgehogs emerging early from their hibernation.

Early migrants from the southern hemisphere included a swift spotted in Sandwich Bay, Kent, not usually seen until late April, and a male Garganey duck that reached the Isle of Sheppey, said Bob Gomes, warden of the Elmley marshes.

John Amand, managing director of Jacques Amand nurseries at Stanmore, west London, has plants in cold storage. He said: "Normally we force the flowers in the greenhouse, but this year they are coming on anyway."



The Queen receives a bouquet at Cape Town airport from Zanela Ngakane



The Queen's helicopter arriving at Simonstown

South Africa visit

Continued from page 1

on the guest list of any functions during the royal visit. She may, however, choose to make an appearance, which she is perfectly entitled to do, when the Queen addresses parliament in Cape Town today.

Mrs Mandela is one of the few prominent South Africans the Queen is not scheduled to meet politicians from all factions of the new Government of National Unity and at least 13 tribal kings have been included in a full programme of official functions that will take the Queen even into the depths of six black townships.

Hundreds of extra police have been drafted into the cities on the Queen's itinerary to keep a tight rein on security, but there has so far been little evidence of serious opposition to her presence, apart from some carping from right-wing Afrikaners because she is not visiting Bloemfontein, one of their traditional capitals, and that she apparently has no plans to apologise for what the

British did to the Boers in early colonial days.

Yesterday *Raport*, the leading Afrikaans Sunday newspaper, commented: "The most important thing about this visit is the economic effects it could have on South Africa, not so much that we will have more British products in South Africa, but that we can export more to Britain."

Refraining from criticism of past bloodshed between rival white settlers, *Raport* added: "British history [in South Africa] is not without its blemishes. But the same can be said for us."

After greeting the Queen yesterday, Mr Mbeki said: "It is very good she is visiting; it signals the strength of the relationship between this country and the UK. It is particularly good she has come so soon after the change of government." Mr Mbeki was five years old when the Queen last visited South Africa.

Economy triumph, page 9
Diary, page 16

Professor George Bass has been called the father of marine archaeology.

In thirty years of diving for shipwrecks, none has proved more fascinating than the wreck of a Bronze Age trading vessel that sank off the Turkish coast 3,300 years ago.

The oldest known wreck in the world, it lies 150 feet below the surface of the Mediterranean.

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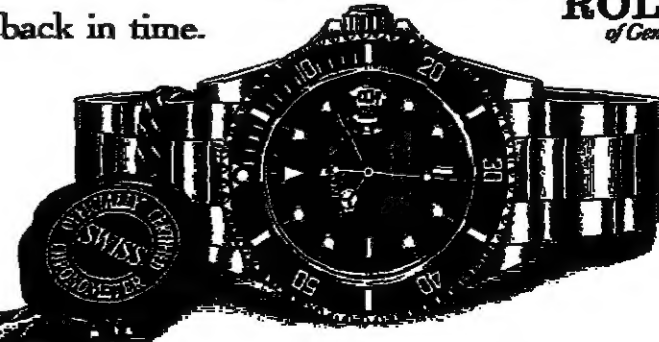
Inside beats a self-winding movement that has taken a year to make, from the very first operation on the first tiny part through to final assembly by our craftsmen in Geneva.

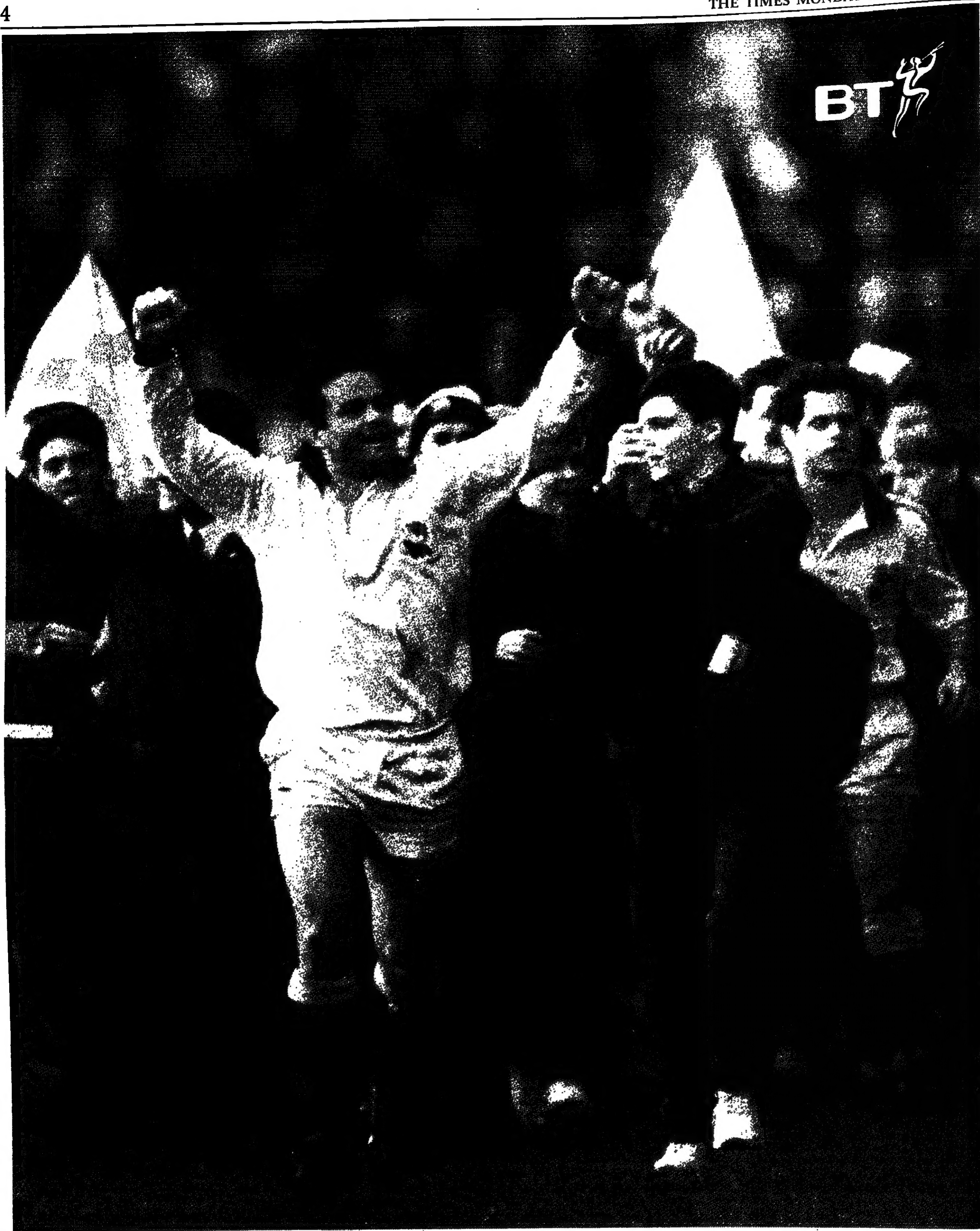
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Single-sex schooling at risk as private sector goes co-ed

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A WAVE of independent schools switching to co-education has prompted fears that single-sex schooling will disappear in some parts of Britain by the end of the century.

Despite the success of single-sex schools in examination league tables, financial pressures and the continuing popularity of mixed schools among parents are reviving a trend that had shown signs of faltering. Two boys' schools have announced this month that they are changing their

intake, joining some famous names taking girls for the first time.

Mill Hill School, in north London, had already announced that it would become co-educational in September, while Cheltenham College, in Gloucestershire, is introducing girls in its junior school. In the past fortnight, Bramcote School in Scarborough, one of the leading preparatory schools in the North of England, has followed suit and Epsom College in Surrey has

announced that it is taking girls throughout the senior school.

Mergers and closures will further deplete the ranks of single-sex schools this autumn. Boys attending St Augustine's College and Abbey Preparatory School at Westgate in Essex will be offered places at a co-educational school to be established by the town's Ursuline Convent. Plans for a merger between Charters-Ancaster girls' school in Bexhill, East Sussex, and the co-educational Bartle Abbey School are being contested by parents.

With mixed schools increasingly dominating the state system, independent education provides the only opportunity for single-sex schooling in many areas. More than a third of local authorities now have no segregated schools, leaving half the population of England served entirely by co-education.

Some independent boys' schools, such as Abingdon School in Oxfordshire, have decided not to take girls to preserve their traditions and widen parents' choice. But other areas are now left with few single-sex schools. In southwest England, for example, only four all-boys senior boarding schools are left in the independent sector, and throughout Britain more than 50 single-sex preparatory schools have become mixed since 1990.

Bramcote School opted for co-education after more than 100 years as a boys' school because of the decline in boarding in the under-13 age group and to mirror the arrangements in the senior schools it serves.

Dick Davison, spokesman for the Independent Schools Information Service, said the independent sector was conscious of its role as the main source of single-sex education, but governors had to decide on the best course for their schools.

Civil servant attacks education reforms

By JOHN O'LEARY

SIR GEOFFREY HOLLAND, senior civil servant at the Education Department until last year, will tomorrow denounce some of the measures he had to implement.

In his first public criticism of government policy since his resignation last March, Sir Geoffrey will use a Channel 4 documentary to attack the National Curriculum, A levels and the traditional teaching methods favoured by ministers. He says provision for 16 to 19-year-olds is "a mess".

There was frequent speculation about disagreements with John Patten, then Education Secretary, during Sir Geoffrey's brief period as permanent secretary at the department. He is now Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University.

In tomorrow's 20-20 Vision programme, he says: "One of my main worries about the National Curriculum is that it's focused so much on subject and content and detail of what has to be learnt and achieved at a time when the half-life of knowledge is getting shorter."

He says A levels are too narrow and need reforming. He also expresses concern



Patten: disagreement denied

about the standard of qualifications on training courses. He fears that £1.25 billion spent on modern apprenticeships is "throwing good money after bad".

Sir Geoffrey places some blame for educational shortcomings with universities. "Our education system still dances to the tune of the old universities. Their influence, particularly Oxford and Cambridge, remains pervasive and insidious: education behind closed walls for a young elite."

Education, page 33



Queen Elizabeth knighting Drake after his circumnavigation. Supporters say he discovered Cape Horn almost 40 years before Schouten

Drake historians lay claim to Cape Horn

By ANDREW PIERCE

FOUR HUNDRED years after his death Sir Francis Drake has sailed into an international dispute over who discovered Cape Horn. Historians on both sides of the Atlantic are pressing for Drake to be credited with the discovery of the most southerly tip of South America in 1578 during his four-year circumnavigation in the *Golden Hind*.

Until recently the Dutch explorer Schouten was acknowledged as the first man to sail around the Horn, in 1615. The cape took its name from Horn, his home town. The Dutch are fiercely resisting the claim by Drake's supporters, who are adamant that the history books should be rewritten before 1996, the 400th anniversary of Drake's death.

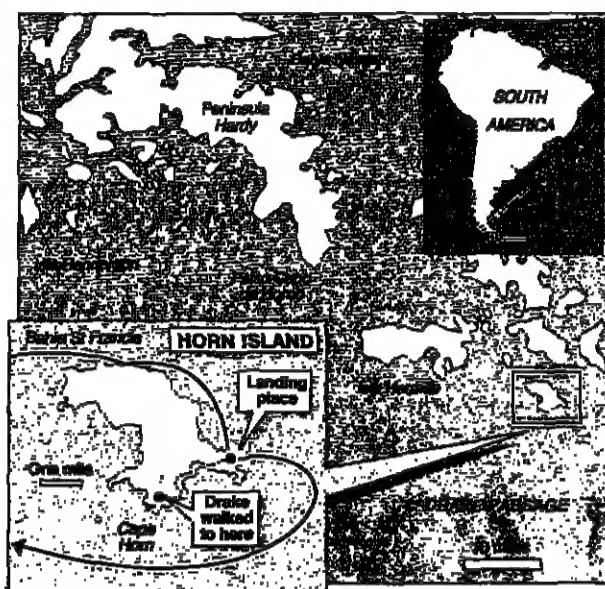
The National Maritime Historical Society in New York and the Drake Navigators' Guild in California claim that the scourge of the Spanish Armada was so

excited by the discovery that he threw himself to the ground on what was then the most southerly tip of the world. They say that he named it Cape Elizabeth in honour of the Queen.

The historians have produced documentary evidence and retraced Drake's voyage through maps and charts to try to prove their case. The Royal Geographical Society in London and the National Geographical Society in New York will arbitrate on the dispute.

Peter Stanford, president of the maritime society, said: "Maps including the famous Hondius map from the 1590s shows Cape Horn as it really is, with open ocean to the south. The map was drawn 20 years before Schouten and shows the route of Drake's voyage. Schouten must have seen that map before he claimed to have discovered the cape."

The Hondius map, now in the British Museum, gave



the first indication of a new gateway to the Pacific. The discovery was regarded as a state secret by Elizabeth I, who did not want the Spaniards to know of the new route. Until then access had been through only the Straits

of Magellan, which were under Spanish control.

Mr Stanford said that Francis Fletcher, chaplain of the *Golden Hind*, wrote about Horn Island in 1583. "They went on the island in clear weather and could see

open ocean as far as the eye could see to the south. From Cape Horn, on a clear day, you can see something like 50 miles. It could only have been Cape Horn."

Sir Richard Hawkins, son of Sir John who was the architect of the Elizabethan navy, wrote in his *Observations* published in 1622 that Drake had told him about the discovery. Drake "anchored under the lee of it, and going ashore, carried a compass with him and seeking out the southernmost part cast himself down upon the uppermost point grovelling. Presently, he imbarcked, and then recounted unto his people, that he had been upon the southernmost known land in the World."

Hazelhoff Koefsema, secretary of the Dutch Cape Horners Foundation, said: "You will not be amazed that the foundation... will take a stand against the incorrect presentation of Drake's discoveries. We will attempt our own analysis of the existing records of Drake's track."

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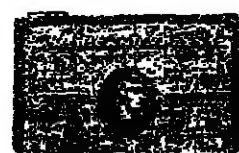
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'It brings into question the whole privatisation. This is not just another train but a holiday in itself'

Rail buffs rush to save doomed Scottish sleeper service

By NICOLA TYRRELL

THE campaign to save one of the most romantic train journeys in Europe, the West Highland sleeper from London to Fort William, began in earnest last week as the 20.25 pulled out of Euston.

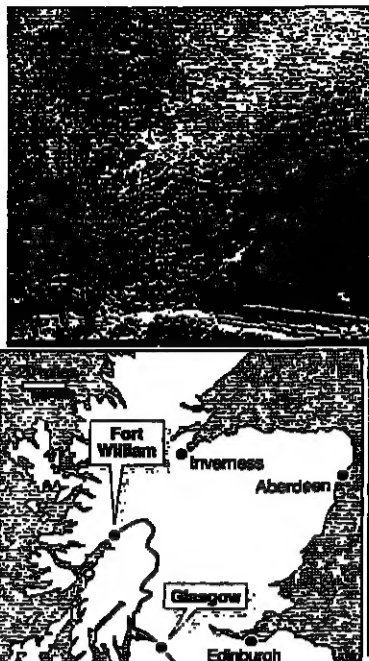
The day after British Rail announced it was to end the 94-year-old service, the train was packed with rail buffs determined to halt the planned closure on May 28. Enthusiasts from as far afield as America and Japan have booked places for the 12-hour journey (standard fare £148, return Super Saver £108) to ensure the train is virtually full for its last ten weeks.

As the train picked up speed heading for the first stop at Crewe, passengers explained their attachment to a service they see as part of the national heritage and a vital link with Scotland.

"It brings into question the wisdom of the whole rail privatisation issue," said Chris Tavenor, a businessman from West Sussex travelling north with friends for a holiday in the Highlands. "You can get to Paris by train in three hours, but Scotland is



becoming impossible. And this is not just another train but a holiday in itself." Lindsey Robertson, a charity worker who has been travelling to his home in Argyll on the sleeper once a month for eight years, and



Chris Tavenor, left, says the scenic journey to Fort William is a holiday in itself, while Alan Clark believes loss of the service will "relegate Scotland to colonial status"

who always sits at the same table with his Glenfiddich and soda, said: "It's an institution. You meet a tremendous cross-section of people on board, from lords to fishermen, skiers and climbers."

Ken Lightfoot, chief stew-

ard for seven years, said many people had been travelling on the train since childhood. "People are beginning to stay up later, drinking in groups to savour last precious moments."

Peter Shepherd, who is a

regular passenger and an active member of a campaign group in Fort William called Storm (Stop This Railway Madness), said: "People locally feel this is the thin end of the wedge, the beginning of the end of the rail service

which will cut jobs and devastate the local economy." He added: "We are going to fight to save this service." But the real fight will take place at Westminster. Alan Clark, a former Defence Minister and one of many senior



Tories concerned about the closure, is a frequent user of the Scottish sleeper service. He believes loss of the service will "relegate Scotland to colonial status". The impact of the pending closure is already being felt in

Fort William, the gateway to the Scottish islands and the western Highlands. The Scottish Tourist Board said there had been a spate of summer holiday cancellations since the announcement.

British Rail says the train has been running at less than full capacity. But passengers on board said that in the past they had been turned away and forced to use day services, only later to find that spaces had been available on the sleeper.

Campaigners believe the service has been poorly marketed, and that the 101-year history of the line, with its feeling of "old world" travel and the spectacular winding route through the Highlands with views of snow-capped mountains, gives it the potential to be a prime tourist attraction. On the line's centenary last year, the outgoing BR chairman Sir Bob Reid said that the Fort William line was "a marvellous selling point for Europe".

There is still a chance that the service will win a reprieve after a consultation on rail services in Scotland in May.

Leading article, page 17

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Prison visitors may regain powers to punish inmates

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering restoring powers of punishment to prison Boards of Visitors. With discipline among inmates growing, the Home Office is reviewing the role of boards and ministers have demanded a report this month.

The review committee, chaired by Michael Forsyth, the Prisons Minister, wants to strengthen the role of Boards of Visitors. It is studying the recruitment of members, their funding and whether they should be renamed. A board, made up of lay people, is appointed for each prison and monitors conditions in the jail, its administration and the treatment of inmates.

The most far-reaching idea being canvassed is to restore to boards the power to discipline prisoners, something that would reverse a policy implemented only three years ago when they lost power to adjudicate on serious outbreaks of indiscipline. Since then, there has been criticism

by some boards that governors can impose only 28 days' remission at most for disciplinary offences, rather than the 120 days which they could impose under the old rules. More serious incidents are referred to the police and Crown Prosecution Service, but board members say that the lack of prosecutions has encouraged prisoners to believe they can get away with indiscipline and has lowered morale among prison staff.

The boards today suggest the creation of panels from among their 1,600 members, comprising a legally qualified chairman and two lay people to deal with disciplinary matters at groups of prisons.

Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has informally suggested that stipendiary magistrates go into prisons to deal with serious offences.

David Abelson, of the Coordinating Committee of Boards of Visitors, said the Crown Prosecution Service often did not prosecute inmates for serious indiscipline. "When they do, many convictions are disposed of by a concurrent sentence or conditional discharge. There is very little understanding of the subtleties of prison," he said. The number of assaults by prisoners on staff and on other prisoners has risen in recent years, to 5,644 in 1993-94.

David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said governors should be provided with the proper range of penalties.

A number of boards have produced reports criticising the Crown Prosecution Service for failing to take seriously the gravity of offences inside jails. The police and CPS, however, say they have difficulty in getting evidence from inmates. The CPS also has to consider whether it is in the public interest to bring prosecutions against people who might already be serving long sentences.

Call for legal limit on jail populations

A JAIL the size of Dartmoor's needs to open every two months to take the present increase of prisoners, a report published today says (Lucy Berrington writes).

The report by the Penal Affairs Consortium, which comprises 24 organisations, proposes a legal limit on the numbers held in each jail. The prison population will this month exceed 51,239 for the first time since 1987.

The Government is planning six more jails and 2,000 additional places at existing ones, the consortium says this is inadequate. Overcrowding produces unpleasant conditions and restrictive regimes, threatening prison discipline, the report says.

Mackay seeks end to 'quickie' divorces

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor will outline proposals in the next few weeks to scrap the "quickie" divorce procedure favoured by 75 per cent of separating couples.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has won Cabinet backing for a White Paper in which couples will have to settle disputes on finances and custody of children before being granted a decree. The aim of the proposals, outlined in a Green Paper last year, is to remove the notion of "fault", which underpins the present divorce system, and to end lengthy and expensive court disputes.

Couples will have to consider the welfare of their children as a first priority, a change that is likely to delay the granting of divorces. The White Paper is expected to

outline three options: one year, 18 months or two years, as the minimum time before couples can seek a divorce after first registering their intention in court. The Lord Chancellor is thought to favour the one-year proposal.

There will also be a new emphasis on settling differences through out-of-court mediation, which will be offered to every couple. Last year Lord Mackay said he wanted a divorce law which "really meets the needs of the people who find that their marriage has run into trouble, by trying to resolve the problems so that they stay married. And if that's not possible, that they resolve their problems with the minimum of acrimony."

Leading article, page 17

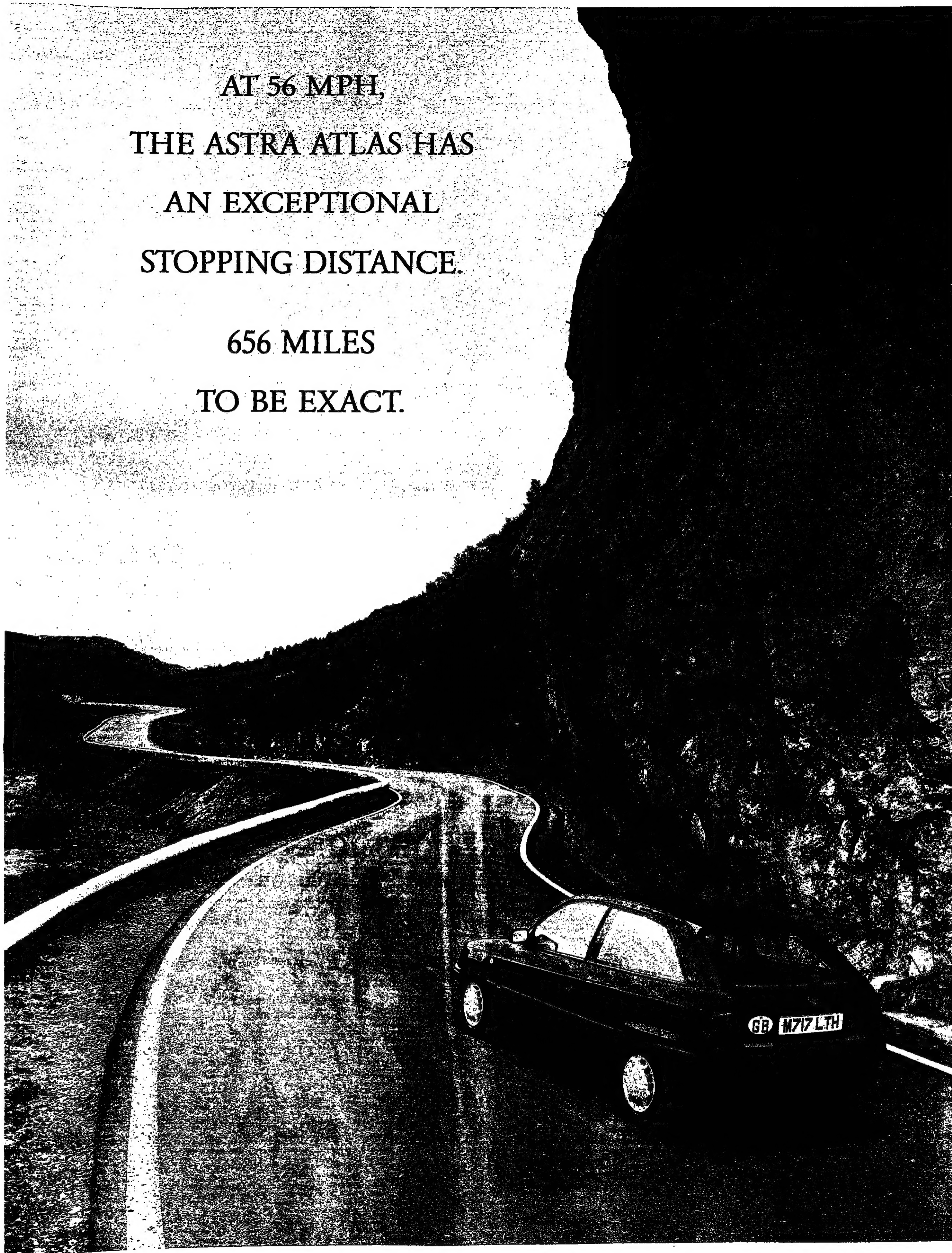
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Men are complacent and ignorant about health, says survey

By EDWARD GORMAN

MEN are dangerously ignorant about the growing menaces of prostate and testicular cancer, according to a survey published today. They are also complacent about their health in general and do not regularly consult a doctor, with the result that many men die from conditions that are often preventable.

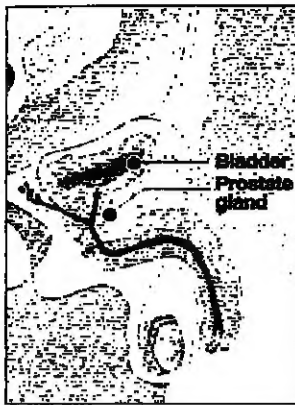
Eighty-four per cent of men admit they know little or nothing about prostate and testicular cancer; only 11 per cent can locate the prostate on a diagram of the male body. Most are aware the prostate is in the genital region, but the majority (62 per cent) mistake the bladder for it.

Women are slightly better at locating the prostate (59 per cent), even though it only features in the male body.

About 50 per cent of men know that prostate cancer affects only men, while its symptoms, pain on urination and frequent urination, are recognised by only 43 per cent of men.

In its survey, MORI concludes that there is a general lack of knowledge about this part of a man's body, which it believes could be due to embarrassment, the fear of illness or simply a lack of interest in the subject of health among men.

Professor Gordon McVie,



scientific director of the Cancer Research Campaign, said there was a clear need to educate men about potentially dangerous cancers. He said that cancer of the prostate now claimed the lives of about 9,000 men a year, making it the third biggest killer of men after cancer of the lung and colon.

"Prostate cancer is a major killer of men. It didn't used to be a problem because it is 70 and 80-year-olds who mostly get it and a lot of men were dying before that age. But now, with heart disease falling, prostate cancer is a much bigger threat," he said.

There is some evidence that prostate cancer is becoming more common in younger men, although the reasons are not known. Professor McVie said men should recognise that getting up in the night

regularly to go to the lavatory was not a normal sign of old age, but could be an indication that there was a problem with the prostate.

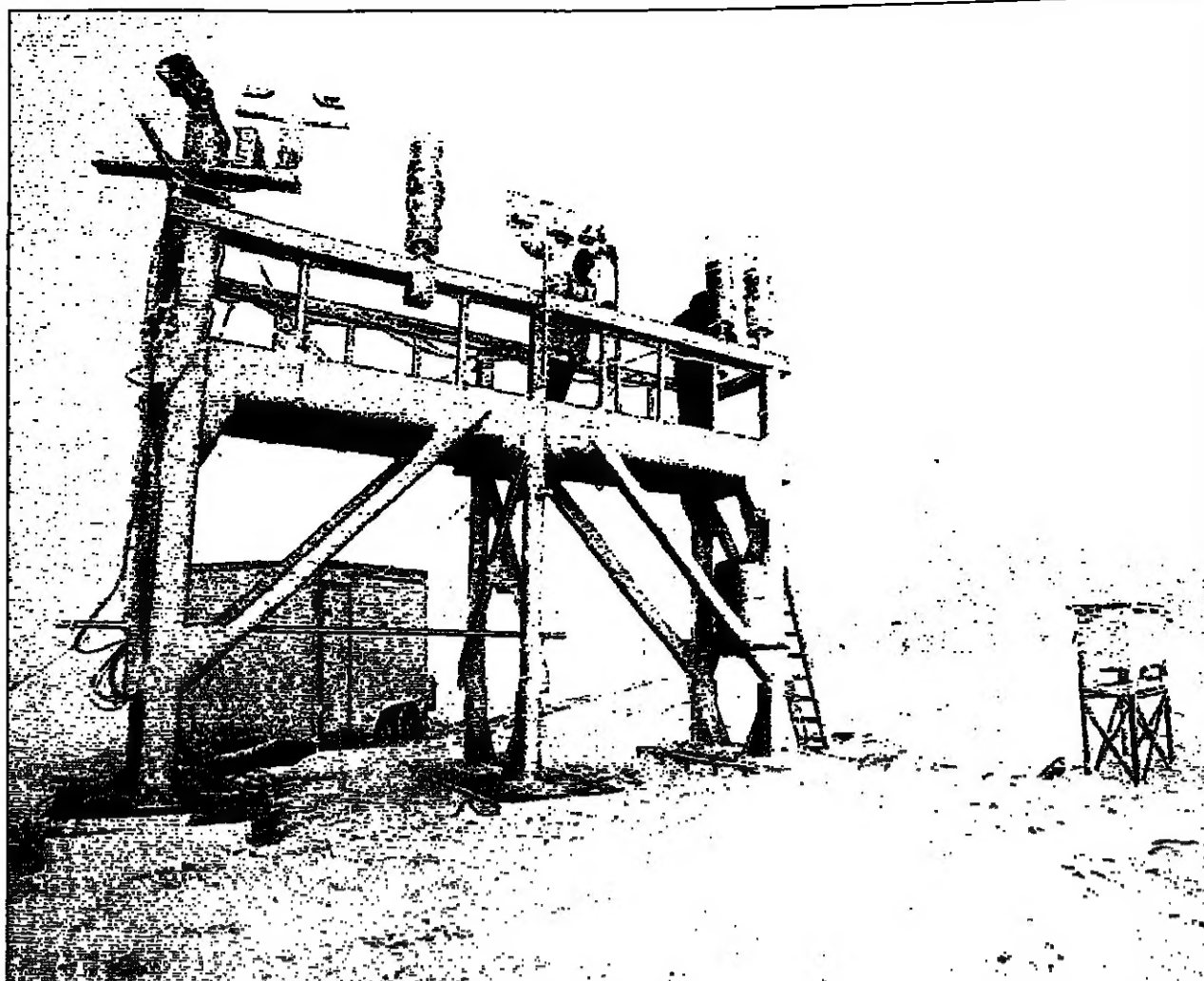
He said lack of awareness about testicular cancer, which affected younger men, was not as serious a problem because 85 per cent of all cases were successfully cleared up, whether or not they were detected early.

The survey, published in this month's *Reader's Digest*, found that men were much more likely than women to avoid going to the doctor. In the 12 months before the poll was carried out, 23 per cent of men had no contact with a doctor as opposed to 15 per cent of women. Men were also more likely to cancel a visit to their GP.

Sixty-six per cent of men had had their blood pressure taken in the previous two years, compared with 81 per cent of women. Nine per cent of men had never had it taken, compared with 2 per cent of women.

Men's reasons for not seeing a doctor ranged from reluctance to have a medical examination (1 per cent) and anxiety at catching something from other patients in the waiting room (1 per cent), to inconvenient surgery hours (13 per cent), lack of time (18 per cent) and concern at wasting the doctor's time (22 per cent).

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Machinery on top of Great Dunfell, Cumbria, with which scientists will gather condensation from the clouds

Researchers suck rain from Cumbrian clouds

SCIENTISTS from six European countries have set up vacuum suction machinery on top of the Lake District's second-highest peak as part of a project to study weather patterns and pollution.

Researchers on the 2,780ft Great Dunfell in Cumbria will collect condensation from the clouds before sending it for analysis at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and

Technology (Umist). Professor Axel Berner, of Austria, said: "This place is one of the best locations in the world for this kind of experiment. The landscape makes it easy to collect the moisture from the clouds. However, it is more than a little breezy up here."

He said that the experiment would provide information that would enable scientists to predict future climate change

and help policy makers to decide on the resources that should be devoted to pollution control.

Dr Keith Bower of Umist said that the project, which began last month, would run for two more weeks. A similar project was run on a mountain-top near Frankfurt a few years ago and others will be started around the world. The next will be run in Tenerife in 1997.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Casualty unit shuts for lack of doctors

One of the biggest hospitals in South Wales had to close its casualty unit on Saturday night because of a shortage of junior doctors. Forty patients were sent away from Neath General Hospital and the unit remained closed until 6am yesterday. Ambulances took 25 patients to Morriston Hospital in Swansea. Andrew Bellamy, general manager, said: "We tried hard to get doctors to cover but it is not easy on the night of a Wales rugby match."

Two crewmen die

Two crewmen, thought to be Norwegian, died after their cargo ship capsized in the North Sea in 25ft waves. All six on the Norwegian coaster *Unitis* were winched aboard helicopters after it overturned east of Fraserburgh.

Roller death

A boy, aged nine, was crushed to death yesterday when his father ran over him with a grass roller towed behind a Land-Rover. The accident happened at the family's home at Upper Woodford, Wiltshire.

Fatal stabbing

An argument in an east London pub left one man dead and three men and a woman recovering from stab wounds. A man, aged about 30, was arrested after the attack at the Dewdrop Inn, Deptford, early on Saturday.

Fourth charge

Steven Grieveson, 24, an unemployed catering worker accused of killing three teenage boys, has been charged with the attempted murder of a 14-year-old boy. He will appear before Sunderland magistrates again on Friday.

Family fortune

Charles Smith, 94, of Seaton, Devon, has bequeathed £18 million to two stepdaughters who were unaware of his wealth. The former London builder retired to Seaton 28 years ago, increasing wealth through investments.

Painful complaint that brings mayhem to one in six women

By DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

ENDOMETRIOSIS affects one woman in six of reproductive age: up to two million women in Britain. Despite its high incidence and the misery it can cause, there are few common complaints that are less well understood and it is frequently misdiagnosed. This week has been designated Endometriosis Week, a well-tried method of increasing public awareness of a problem.

Endometriosis is benign only in the sense that it is not cancerous; it can cause mayhem with a woman's life. Its essential feature is that the endometrial cells, which line

the cavity of the uterus, are not entirely expelled from the woman's body with her period bleeding, but are scattered elsewhere. It is thought that in most cases retrograde flow through the Fallopian tubes allows fragments of the endometrial lining to settle in the pelvic cavity, around the Fallopian tubes, the bladder and the ovaries.

Less often, endometrial cells may be borne either in the blood system or along the lymphatics to distant sites; so that a menstruating patch of stray tissue can become established away from the pelvis. Endo-

metriosis is occasionally found in the pleura, the covering of the lungs, and in the guts. Each month, the rogue patches of endometrium respond to the woman's hormonal cycle and engorge in tune with the changes within her uterine cavity. If the patches bleed, the blood is irritant, but in any case the aberrant tissue causes a varying amount of pain and inflammation and in time the affected area can form an inflammatory mass.

The pain and discomfort suffered by any woman is not proportional to the size of the endometrial deposit but more to its site. The patient's hormonal balance is also upset, so that her fertility, already adversely affected by the endometrial tissue which may be forming around the Fallopian

tubes, is further reduced by an upset to her ovulatory cycle. Between 30 and 40 per cent of patients become infertile. The hallmarks of the condition are usually thought of as pelvic pain, worse during periods; heavy periods; a pelvic mass; infertility; and pain during intercourse. Lower back pain, a swollen abdomen particularly at period times, pain on passing water, and pain or bleeding when opening the bowels are less common presenting symptoms.

There have been heated arguments over whether endometriosis particularly affects highly strung and intelligent women. The general view now

is that it is the chaotic periods, painful love life and the upset of the hormonal balance that induce the psychological traits including insomnia and depression; that these symptoms follow the physical troubles rather than vice versa. Its apparent predilection for attacking career women is probably related to their tendency to postpone having babies until they are well established in a job. If fertility is not affected, and conception takes place, the endometriosis is cured.

Diagnosis is made by endoscopy. Laparoscopy, in which an illuminated telescope is inserted through the abdominal wall, is the best method of detecting stray endometrial implants.

Treatment is by interfering with the menstrual cycle, either for a few months to allow time for the deposits to shrivel or, particularly for those beyond child-bearing age, by removal of the uterus and ovaries. Minor surgery can be used to cut away patches of the endometrial tissue, and this will occasionally provide relief. Two groups of hormones are used to stop the menstrual cycle: danazol, a testosterone derivative, is normally taken for six to nine months, or the gonadotrophin-releasing hormone agonists which are administered for six months.

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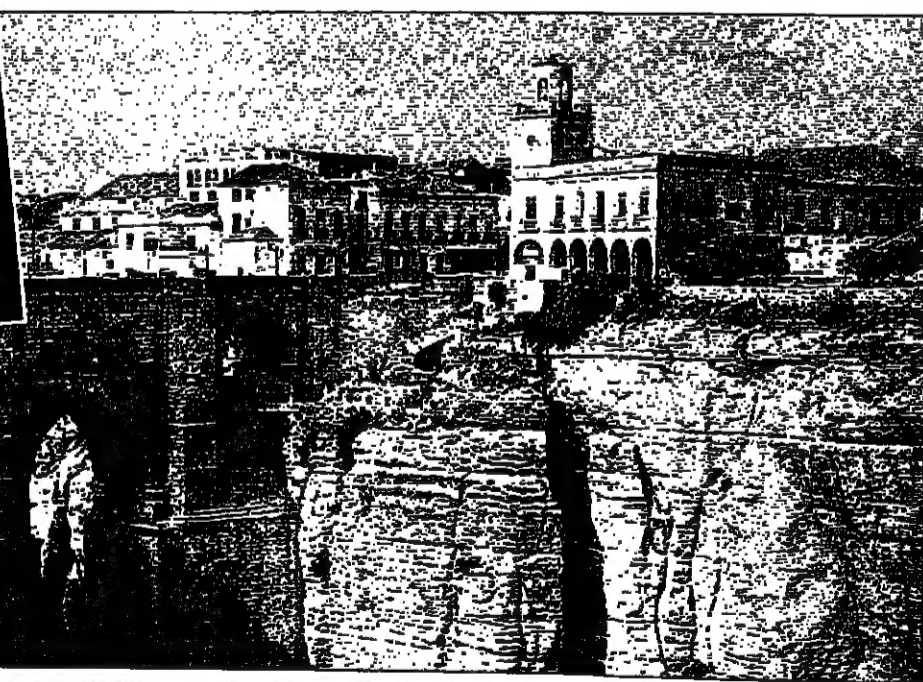
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THE TIMES

Don't forget your passport ... you could be flying to Andalusia



Ronda: centre of culinary excellence in a majestic setting by the side of a gorge



ENTER today's Don't Forget Your Passport competition and you could visit Andalusia, where Frances Bissell (pictured), the *Times* cook, will be the teacher at the Flavours of Spain cookery course.

Each day for three weeks, *The Times* is offering the prize of a holiday. Phone in your answer by 3pm and you will be contacted later today if you are the winner. In many cases you will be able to leave the same day - though you will have the option of taking your holiday later if you wish.

The south of Spain is renowned for its fine food and the quality of its produce: it has olives, figs, almonds, walnuts and citrus fruits. Its ham is famous throughout the world and the region has delicate varieties of vegetables and fresh fish from both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

Our Cox & Kings short break from

May 5-10 offers a superb opportunity to experience authentic traditional cuisine in its natural setting, learning how to make the most of a wealth of local delicacies.

The winner will stay in Janet Mendell's home in the hills near Ronda, and the course includes a visit to a local market, lectures, demonstrations and hands-on experience in the kitchen.

It is designed to enhance skills at every stage of the culinary process, from the selection of produce to its preparation, presentation and consumption.

Frances Bissell knows Andalusia well and has written many cookery books. Janet Mendell will be the course director for the other tours in the series. She has spent the past 25 years in Spain: her recipes have been gathered from local restaurants and kitchens and she has written two books on Spanish cookery and contributes to several magazines.

Tours include scheduled flights from London to Gibraltar, five nights' twin-share accommodation, transfers,

meals, demonstrations and lectures.

Prices are from £795 to £835 per person. In addition to the Frances Bissell course, there are courses on October 6-11 and November 24-29. For details, phone Cox & Kings on 0171 873 5005.

HOW TO ENTER

The winners of Saturday's and yesterday's competitions will be announced in tomorrow's paper. For a chance to win the Andalusia holiday for two, ring 0839 44 45 16

before 3pm with the answers to the following questions. We will contact you later today if you are the winner.

- 1) Which cereal forms the basis of the dish paella?
- 2) What is the English name of the fish in Calamare a la Romana?

The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p a minute (plus 4p at all other times).

Cox & Kings

Tomorrow: your chance to win a holiday in Amsterdam

Church fights US child benefit cuts

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A statement likely to reignite divisions over abortion within the Republican Party, leading Roman Catholic bishops in the United States have condemned plans to stop welfare payments for many children born out of wedlock.

As the US House of Representatives prepares to debate welfare reform this week — part of the latest stage in the Contract with America sponsored by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, which hopes to wrest \$50 billion (\$32 billion) from the federal budget in the next five years — the bishops have also denounced provisions in the Republican Bill which aim to end benefits to unmarried teenage mothers and illegal immigrants.

The statement, entitled *Moral Principles and Policy Priorities for Welfare Reform*, said that although the status quo was unacceptable, the Government should not abandon its role in fighting poverty. "It is children who pay the greatest price for the failures of the current system. Genuine welfare reform is a moral imperative and urgent national priority," the Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference said.

"Genuine welfare reform should rely on incentives more than harsh penalties; for example, denying needed benefits for children born to mothers on welfare can hurt the children and pressure their mothers toward abortion and sterilisation."

Such opposition from the senior leadership of the nation's Catholic bishops will be unwelcome to congressional Republicans who have en-

dured similar criticism from Democrats arguing that the Bill would visit the sins of the parents on their children.

The legislation, which would end cash subsidies to any child born to a woman already receiving assistance, is likely nevertheless to be passed by a House where party discipline among the Republican majority remains strong. The bishops' statement, however, has widespread and diverse support from both proponents and opponents of abortion, child welfare advocates and civil libertarians and may lead to certain modifications to the Bill.

Some congressmen were still weighing their options, however. "I am leaning towards supporting the Bill," Michael Castle, a Delaware Republican, said, adding that he was concerned it did not contain enough child care funding to enable mothers on welfare to go to work.

Christopher Smith, the New Jersey congressman and for-

mer director of the state's Right to Life Committee, has said he will vote against his party if no changes are made. "I don't think you should use the child as a pawn in trying to influence the mother's behaviour. These proposals are inhumane," Mr Smith said.

House representatives Dick Armey, the Republican majority leader, and Tom DeLay, the majority whip, have suggested that they may support amendments which would allow the states to provide vouchers allowing more generous treatment of young mothers and children born outside marriage.

In the Senate, where members of both parties are still seeking the best method of dealing with the issue of unmarried teenage mothers, the prospect of a Bill denying any benefits to illegitimate children born to women younger than 18 and to the women themselves is likely to provoke an even stronger reaction. It could incite opposition from more conservative Republicans opposed to abortion rights at a time when the party has been keen to avoid bringing that divisive debate into public view.

The Catholic Church has a strong voice in America where it resettles thousands of refugees and immigrants each year. Churches and charitable agencies run hundreds of soup kitchens, food banks, orphanages and shelters for the homeless lending authority to any statements involving social equality.

Cardinal John O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, wrote to Congress recently urging that the Republicans



Cardinal O'Connor leads the St Patrick's Day parade in New York last week. He wants the welfare Bill to be softened so as to allow more help for children

should endorse the amendments to the Bill which would permit vouchers to be used for items such as nappies, clothing and school supplies.

Mgr Howard Hubbard, Bishop of Albany in New York State, said that the church

leadership had felt it essential to speak out against the Bill which would reverse a trend of 60 years towards increasing federal control of social welfare policy.

"There is no question that some of what we are saying is

running against the tide," he told *The New York Times*. "Unfortunately, those who will be most affected are not well organised and cannot speak for themselves. If we do not make the point, I do not know who else will."

'Panic' landed Americans in Iraqi prison

BY TOM RHODES

AMERICA continued yesterday to negotiate through foreign intermediaries for the release of two nationals being held in Iraq after they strayed north of the Kuwaiti border.

The Clinton Administration has asked the United Nations and Poland, which has handled American interests in Iraq since the ending of diplomatic relations before the Gulf War, to press Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi President, for the release of the Americans, currently being questioned by Iraqi lawyers in Baghdad.

William Perry, the US Secretary of Defence, had hoped for the early release of the captives to coincide with his departure from Saudi Arabia after a week-long diplomatic mission yesterday.

Gaining their release, however, has been made more complicated by increasingly tense relations between Baghdad and Washington following America's pressure on the United Nations to maintain strict economic sanctions against Iraq.

The two men, working under contract to the McDonnell Douglas Corporation to maintain aircraft in Kuwait, were yesterday identified by one of their wives as David Daliberti and Bill Barlow.

Kathy Daliberti, of Jacksonville, Florida, said: "It's just a terrible, terrible thing, and I am just about at my wit's end not knowing if he's all right and how they are treating

him." It is thought the two men had been trying to visit a friend in a Danish engineering unit near the border, but had made a wrong turning and passed seemingly unnoticed through a UN border checkpoint before being arrested at Umm Qasr.

"As near as we can tell, it was a mistake, a blunder on their part," said Mr Perry, who was keen to avoid any public provocation of Baghdad. "And the reason they got past the checkpoints was apparently they were mistaken for a UN vehicle. By the time they had realised their mistake they were in Iraq."

The English-language *Arab Times* in Kuwait, reported yesterday that the pair panicked when they realised they had strayed over the border and drew the attention of an Iraqi border patrol.

It said that when they realised their mistake, they swung their car around and headed for Kuwait. "Had they not panicked, they would have been in the hands of Unikom and not in the hands of... you know who," an unidentified UN officer was quoted as saying.

The two, who were said to be in no danger, could be imprisoned for up to 20 years for illegal entry. But precedent has shown that in other cases since the Gulf War, such prisoners have been either expelled or released before serving a full sentence.

ANC faces clash with unions over economy

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN DURBAN

THE generally conservative South African Budget and the abolition of the two-tier currency system has completed a triumphant week for the new team managing the economy.

There is a great deal of good news. The economy, which had shown negative growth since 1990, grew by 2.5 per cent last year and is expected to breach 3 per cent this year. The rand, which was universally expected to depreciate when stripped of its two-tier defence, has appreciated. As the economy refuels, so a balance of payments gap has appeared but capital inflows have covered that. Investments are up and property prices are expected to follow.

The irony is that the African National Congress-led Government has in many ways adopted economic policies more conservative than those of its National Party predecessors. Despite the presence of a communist Deputy Minister of Finance, the old radical policies of the ANC and South African Communist Party have been stood on their head. The word "socialism" is never mentioned. The old commitments to sweeping nationalisation have gone, replaced by talk of privatisation.

The Budget's chief objectives would have found favour with Margaret Thatcher: it aims to reduce government

debt, to cut the Budget deficit and to cut government spending, despite expectations of a public spending binge.

The brunt of an expected 3 per cent cut in spending this year is to be borne by public service workers whose pay accounts for 37 per cent of the Budget. Their total wage bill is said to rise by just 3.25 per cent, while inflation is more than 10 per cent and rising. Themba Nkomo, the leader of the Health and Public Service

"The old radical policies have been stood on their head. The word socialism is never mentioned"

Workers Union, condemned the Budget. "The Government", he said, "has abandoned the people who voted it into power and we will get even by mobilising public servants to boycott the local elections." This is a significant threat, for without the co-operation of the public service it is difficult to see how the elections can be held at all.

The Government's five-year Reconstruction and Development Programme is running

further behind and the entire economic advance is being led by the private sector. It appears that the great mining houses, led by the Anglo American Corporation, which saw off an Afrikaner threat to nationalise them in 1948 have seen off a similar threat from African nationalists.

The ANC's somersault on economic policy, its alignment with business and the forthcoming collision with the unions, merely confirm that the fundamental process at work in South Africa is the rapid social and economic consolidation of a new black middle class: this, rather than the populist promises of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, is what the ANC's victory has really been about. The real question is how well President Mandela will be able to hold together the "broad church" of the ANC as the perception sinks in.

□ Johannesburg: An inquiry has been ordered into a confrontation between police and the armed bodyguards of Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's First Deputy President, who met the Queen yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes). It is claimed that the bodyguards threatened the black policemen after they were challenged about having AK47 assault rifles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Visit hit by execution

Manila: Widespread outrage in the Philippines over the hanging of a Filipino maid forced the postponement yesterday of a visit here next month by Goh Chok Tong, Singapore's Prime Minister.

Roberto Romulo, the Philippines Foreign Secretary, said the visit had been "postponed to a more propitious time", and that he had recommended to President Ramos the creation of a presidential commission to investigate the case of the executed maid. The postponement had been mutually agreed by the two Governments, he said. (Reuters)

Khomeini rites

Tehran: Ahmad Khomeini, 48, the son of Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's late leader, has been buried in a mausoleum next to his father in Tehran. (Reuters)

Obituary, p19

Double win

Bonn: A habitual criminal escaped another prison sentence after winning 2.7 million marks (£1.25 million) on the lottery. A court in Oldenburg decided his win would help him to go straight. AFP

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Rabbani consolidates his power base as last opposition militia is driven out

Kabul army routs Taliban students in dawn attack

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

AFGHAN government forces drove the Taliban students' army from its base ten miles south of Kabul in a dawn attack with rockets and artillery yesterday, clearing the capital of opposition militias for the first time in three years.

The rout has left President Rabbani firmly in control and punctured the myth of invincibility surrounding Taliban, which captured a third of the country in a six-month march through Pashtun-dominated southern provinces before halting at the gates of Kabul last month.

Taliban is enforcing the tenets of fundamentalist Islam on the areas under its control, to the resentment of most of the population. These include public floggings and amputations. It used its moral authority to seize territory with little fighting, but evidently lacks sufficient military prowess to extend its reach beyond Pashtun provinces.

Taliban and other anti-Government forces have been

driven too far from the city to threaten it with rockets and artillery, raising the possibility of prolonged peace for the first time since rival warlords launched a power struggle after the fall of the communist Government in April 1992. Hundreds of thousands of Kabul refugees will be tempted to return from refugee camps near the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The victory makes it doubtful that President Rabbani, a Tajik, will give up power in the near future, despite promising the United Nations that he would hand power to an interim governing council tomorrow pending the election of a legitimate government.

His three-year term of office ended in December, when he refused to step down. He failed to honour a pledge to the UN to resign in February and his latest military victory makes it almost inconceivable that he will resign in the foreseeable future. The UN, nevertheless, says that it has

received word that he may be ready to go next month.

President Rabbani has no need to resign because he is unassailable militarily for the time being and there is no structure in place for the succession. He is president in name only, without international recognition, with no legitimacy and with a writ that stops at Kabul. He does not preside over a Government worthy of the name and 20 of the country's 30 provinces are controlled by ten different warlords, most of whom are his enemies.

The Defence Ministry said that 100 to 150 Taliban soldiers were killed in yesterday's attack. Charasyab has changed hands three times in the past few months: it was the headquarters of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun fanatic who pulverised the city for two years; Taliban defeated him a month ago and occupied the town; and now government troops have stormed it.

The Government's work has been done for it by Taliban, which destroyed Hekmatyar's forces by attacking from the rear. It also overran positions held in southwest Kabul by Hezb-i-Wahdat, a Shia group, which is now all but irrelevant in the Kabul power battle to the dismay of Iran, its sponsor.

Government forces drove Taliban from the former Shia positions last week. Taliban's closest position to Kabul is now Pul-e-Alam, 38 miles south of the city.

Islamabad: Thousands of followers of an Afghan Shia leader killed this week, apparently while held captive by Taliban forces, have started a long march through central Afghanistan with his body which they want to bury in Mazar-i-Sharif in the north.

Mourners carried the body of Abdul Ali Mazari, the opposition Hezb-i-Wahdat leader, on their shoulders as they marched, an official of the faction said in Pakistan on Saturday. (Reuters)



An Afghan woman in a Kabul hospital yesterday with her children; the one on the left was hurt by a rocket last week.

Algiers police kill 21 suspect militants

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

AS ALGERIA recruited thousands of conscripts for new locally based police units to combat terrorism, the security forces announced at the weekend that they had killed 21 militants over the past four days in the search for the men responsible for slitting the throats of two teenage sisters.

The APS official news agency said that 20 armed militants were shot dead in search operations in nine villages and cities, including the capital. The other man, armed with a shotgun, was killed as troops fanned out across the country in response to the revulsion at the murder of the girls, aged 16 and 17, in the eastern region

of Oum el Bouaghi, about 230 miles from Algiers.

The Interior Minister said on Saturday that the Government is to recruit up to 50,000 men to bolster locally-based police units. Abdelrahmane Meziane Cherif denied that the force would be a militia.

Mokdad Sifi, the Prime Minister, yesterday cancelled a ceremony to mark the thirty-third anniversary of the end of the war of independence with France and returned to Algiers. No explanation was given, but he hinted in a newspaper interview that Islamic Salvation Front leaders, released as a goodwill gesture, might be jailed again.

Jiang strengthens grip on power

From James Pringle, in Peking

JIANG ZEMIN, China's President and Communist Party chief, emerged even stronger yesterday to lead China after the era of Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Jiang, 68, belying his reputation as a weak, lacklustre leader, emerged from the annual meeting of parliament, the National People's Congress, with his new leadership structure in place.

In the past few months he has appeared to have consolidated his grip, and during the Congress introduced two key Vice Premiers into his government, despite unprecedented opposition from delegates to the one chosen to oversee the vital agriculture sector.

A third of the legislators opposed or abstained on the

election of Mr Jiang's protégé, Jiang Chunyun, for the task of feeding China's 1.2 billion people on a shrinking agricultural base.

Diplomats say Mr Jiang is likely to need all the help he can get when the ailing Mr Deng, 90, dies. He will have to deal with double-digit inflation, creaking state-run enterprises — a third of which operate at a loss — landless peasants scouring the country for work and a newly assertive parliament seeking to use to the full its limited rights.

"If Mr Deng is really as ill as we believe, then he can die in the knowledge that a new power structure is in place that should allow for China's relative stability in the next few years," one diplomat in Peking said. "Mr Jiang may, after all, last longer than



Jiang introduced two key Vice Premiers

anyone thought." Mr Jiang has succeeded in building a power base in the People's Liberation Army, with a series of promotions and by

seeking the personal allegiance of senior generals and regional commanders in recent months. Backed by the administrative skills of Li Peng, the otherwise unpopular Premier, who ordered the army to violently suppress the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in June, 1989, Mr Jiang has now completed the infrastructure for rule after Mr Deng.

All the same, as the two-week Congress showed, Mr Jiang will have to deal with a more assertive parliament. The 2,752 delegates showed they were tired of empty slogans from party bosses in Peking about fighting corruption and inflation, and on job creation.

They showed their disapproval of Jiang Chunyun, former party boss of Shandong province, who was elected as Vice Premier in charge of agriculture but with only 63 per cent of the vote. Despite these signs of parliamentary assertiveness, however, the Communist Party is likely to remain hardline on such issues as dissidents, Tibet, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Li Ruihuan, a member of the politburo standing committee, admitted to delegates that China had made mistakes in its harsh handling of Hong Kong issues.

How TV network made a crisis out of a drama

From Gwen Robinson in Tokyo

THE screen dramatisation of *Gaijin*, the swashbuckling tale by the late author James Clavell of samurai and British merchants in 19th-century Japan, has become the most spectacular failure in recent television history.

NBC, the American television network, abruptly cancelled the eight-hour miniseries on the fourth day of a 16-week shoot, catching cast and crew in mid-sentence on the multimillion-dollar set, an elaborate copy of a 19th-century

town. The lavish production of *Gaijin*, starring Diana Rigg, Tim Curry and several top Japanese actors, was the most ambitious television project attempted in Japan, where filmmaking costs are notoriously high. With a multinational cast and crew of more than 300 and locations in Japan and Australia, *Gaijin* was also one of the biggest overseas productions to be undertaken by NBC.



Rigg: screen star cut off in mid-sentence

The Kobe earthquake on January 17 disrupted transport networks and added to the swelling costs. "All in all, NBC was probably thankful for an excuse to cancel the whole thing, pack up and go home," another production assistant said.

Over ten days from late February, the \$30 million (£19 million) budget for *Gaijin* became a \$36 million budget, according to NBC. The final cost of cancellation is likely to amount to \$20 million for NBC and its Japanese partners, TV Tokyo and Mitsu Trading.

The real story behind the death of *Gaijin*, according to sources involved with the production, involves the disastrous attempts by the American and Japanese sides to reconcile their different approaches to filmmaking. "The currency thing was merely the last straw — by then the budget was probably creeping above \$40 million anyway," a production assistant said last week from the hastily abandoned production office.

From the outset, the project was beset by problems of poor planning and communications. Yves Simoneau, the Canadian director, was saddled with a crew of about 130 Japanese, although foreign production managers estimated that only 30 or 40 Japanese were required. Acting extras could not be hired locally, as promised by Japanese production planners, and had to be brought in. Unforeseen expenses included English-language coaches for Japanese actors who were supposed to understand English already.

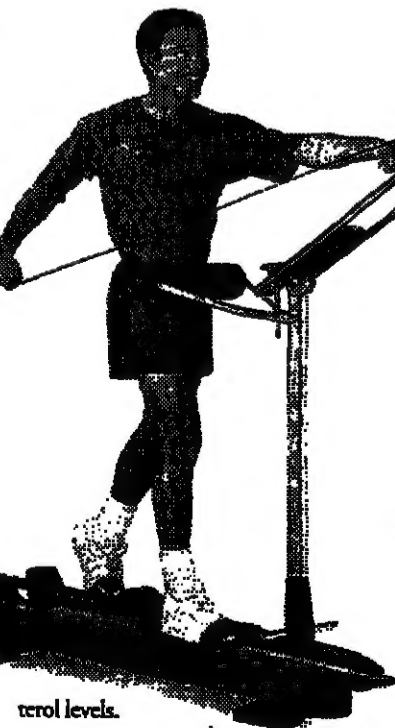
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Syria and Israel to restart dialogue

From Christopher Walker, in Jerusalem

PEACE talks between Israel and Syria, abandoned for the past three months at Syria's behest, are to re-open in Washington today in what is being seen as an eleventh hour attempt to reach agreement before Israel becomes embroiled in its 1996 general election campaign.

After marathon diplomatic manoeuvring in the Middle East last week by Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, the negotiations are resuming at ambassadorial level, with Washington playing a more interventionist role. "The US has decided to become a mediator instead of a mailman," said a journalist who travelled in Mr Christopher's plane.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's Ambassador to America, said that the talks would help to prepare for the next stage of the dialogue on security arrangements, which is to include military officials from both sides. Mr Rabinovich will be negotiating with Walid Mualem, the Syrian Ambassador to America.

If the talks show promise, Dennis Ross, the chief American peace co-ordinator, will return in two weeks to conduct more shuttle diplomacy. Washington officials said that a Camp David-style summit between President Assad of Syria and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, similar to that which brought peace between Israel and Egypt in 1978, will be necessary if any deal is to be agreed.

Leading members of Israel's Labour Government have relayed to Damascus that because of next year's election, the deadline for achieving a treaty is approaching quickly. However, on the eve of the resumption of the talks, an opinion poll has indicated that a large majority of Israelis are opposed to retreat from the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria. The poll found 64 per cent opposed and only 34 per cent in favour. Mr Rabin has promised to hold a referendum on any possible deal before it is signed.

In Damascus, Muhammad Salman, the Information Minister, emphasised that Syria would make no compromise on its central demand for a complete Israeli evacuation from land conquered in the 1967 war.

Israeli officials said that the plan being advanced by Israel would involve an initial pull-back from around Majdal Shams, home to about 15,000 Syrian Druze Arabs. Three years later, there would be a much wider retreat, but Mr Rabin has never specified the extent of such a possible, secondary withdrawal.

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Lumière brothers take the credit as France honours fathers of cinema



Lumière brothers: first to project film on to screen

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

FRANCE'S celebration of the centenary of the cinema reached a climax yesterday when a bevy of famous directors and state officials gathered at the factory in Lyons where the Lumière brothers recorded their first moving images on film on March 19, 1895.

Noon had been chosen as the symbolic moment of birth of the art of cinema because experts decreed it to be the instant when, 100 years ago, Louis and Auguste Lumière cranked up their motion-picture camera to capture the image of workers pouring out of their father's factory. The flickering pictures of men, women and children emerging into the sunlight were first shown publicly as part of a programme of ten 50-second films in the billiard room of the Grand Café in Paris

in December 1895. *La Sortie des Usines Lumière* was also featured almost non-stop on television at the weekend as the film world hailed France's pre-eminence as the home of the cinema.

In Lyons, where the Lumière factory has just been decreed a historic monument, Jacques Toubon, the Culture Minister, and Bertrand Tavernier, the head of the celebrations, yesterday proclaimed the moment to be a key point in history. M. Toubon, whose ministry pours large sums into the cinema industry, announced a grant of four million francs (£500,000) for the factory's restoration.

Some people have been quibbling with the date, pointing out that the Lumières always insisted they had made the film in the summer of 1894. March 19 was chosen because later evidence points to this month, and weather records showed it to have been the only day of sunshine in

March 1895. The lavish official celebrations are helping to reinforce France's claim to be home to the cinema despite American insistence that Thomas Edison got there first.

Edison had demonstrated his Kinetoscope by the time the Lumières set to work on their project, drawing on some of the American's work. Their achievement was to devise a system for projecting the images which Edison was only able to display inside a box. The French insist that the real act of the cinema's birth was the first "collective projection".

With that in mind, the centenary of the Seventh Art should logically have been the first show to paying customers in the Salon Indien of the Grand Café. However, M. Tavernier, president of the Lumière Institute, and his colleagues argue that December 28 is the centenary of the business side while they wish to pay

homage to *les auteurs*. The Lumières themselves failed to envisage the fortunes that would later go to the exploiters of their invention. Soon after patenting it in February 1895, they described it as a "scientific curiosity with no commercial possibilities". Their first efforts also escaped the attention of the Lyons newspapers.

As well as French *auteurs*, directors from America and around the world were on hand for yesterday's ceremonies, including Stanley Donen, Andrei Konchalovsky, and Stephen Frears. According to Charles Millon, the president of the Rhône-Alpes region, the Lumière workshop "is the bit that remains from the first image of the cinema and is thus a fragment of our collective identity".

As part of the ceremonies, M. Toubon, who is sometimes known as Jack Allgood because of his crusade to save the French

language from corruption by English, laid a transparent stone containing artefacts donated by famous cineastes. These included reels, letters and an original poster for *Singin' in the Rain*, Donen's classic.

The effort to celebrate France as the cradle of the cinema coincides with the Gaullist Government's rearguard drive in Brussels to persuade its European partners to accept tougher restrictions on the broadcasting of non-European films on television. At home, the public extravaganza has included Agnès Varda's specially commissioned and star-studded homage *The 100 years of Mr Cinema*. Schools have also been told to emphasise the anniversary. At one Paris kindergarten this week the annual fancy-dress day was devoted to the cinema and parents were advised to pick cartoon characters for their four-year-olds.

Europe seeks to soothe Moscow fears over Nato

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN CARCASSONNE

IN A move that foreshadows fresh transatlantic tensions over the expansion of Nato, European Union foreign ministers announced yesterday an informal agreement to work towards a "non-aggression" pact between Nato and Russia aimed at reducing Moscow's fears of a larger Western alliance.

The move to assuage Russian fears before a Nato decision on the subject is the most ambitious move EU ministers have yet made towards a joint foreign policy on an issue of such importance. Although Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said that EU and American thinking about Russia and Nato was identical, the decision is provoking American fears that European members of Nato are pre-empting decisions in the alliance. The weekend EU meeting in the French city of Carcassonne opened a week of East-West diplomacy designed to offer Russia incentives to repair its fractured relationship with Nato. Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, arrives in Paris today and meets Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, in Geneva later in the week.

Last December Mr Kozyrev abruptly refused to endorse documents making Russia a working member of Nato's Partnership for Peace programme; since then he has been working for a link with Nato which gives Russia a

status above that of its neighbours in Central and Eastern Europe. Nato says, however, that Moscow cannot veto regular and organised consultation with Nato countries.

Ministers emerging from a three-hour debate on Russia in Carcassonne gave different versions of the conclusions reached. Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister who



Kozyrev: he rejected Partnership for Peace

chaired the meeting, said that the EU would work towards a non-aggression "partnership" or "agreement" with Moscow, but declined to define exactly what it might contain. Klaus Kinkel, of Germany, backed a less elaborate declaration or "charter" which fell short of being a treaty.

Mr Hurd said that "there was no decision about a charter, or a treaty or a non-

aggression pact. That will be for Nato to decide." All that had been agreed, he said, was that Russia should be given regular and organised consultation with Nato countries. "That is very much in line with the thinking if the American Administration. I do not think that the Americans would in the least feel that we were jumping ahead of them," he added.

American officials are worried that French disaste for Nato will lead the European Union towards obstructing American hopes and plans for expanding Nato and perhaps deciding the first new memberships next year.

American sources in Brussels said that the creation of a European Union caucus inside Nato would impede agreement on how to reconcile reassuring the Russians and sheltering East European states under Nato's defence guarantees. "We thought that the Western European Union, not the EU, was the European pillar in Nato," one official said. "This is not what we had in mind at all."

American officials at Nato believe that a "non-aggression" agreement would be almost impossible to combine with Nato's eastward extension. They have suggested to Moscow an American-Russian "standing commission" modelled on a liaison body that existed during the Cold War.

Former minister lied to save Tapie

BY CHARLES BREMNER

THE once-charmed career of Bernard Tapie, the French tycoon politician, appears closer to extinction after the admission by another former minister that he lied to save him from the scandal over football bribery.

Politicians and the media voiced disgust yesterday over the acknowledgement by Jacques Mellick, an MP and Mayor of the northern town of Béthune, that he had perjured himself at the trial of M. Tapie and five figures from the football world. M. Mellick, a regional political boss who served in the last Socialist Government, was arrested on Saturday after a week of raucous court proceedings that included damning evidence against M. Tapie.

A protégé of President Mitterrand, M. Tapie is charged with bribing Valenciennes players to lose a 1993 match with Olympic Marseilles, to avoid tiring Marseilles players before the European Cup final which they won six days later. The trial, in Valenciennes, is seen not just as a study of the sleaze in big-time football but also as the calling-to-account of the showman-politician who was deemed a plausible presidential candidate only months ago. A Marseilles MP, M. Tapie has been banned from seeking new office under the terms of a bankruptcy ruling.

In the first surprise in a trial that has been dominated by M. Tapie's mix of bullying and bluster, the former manager of Olympic Marseilles re-



Jacques Mellick, Mayor of Béthune, who admits he lied over the bribes scandal

versed his earlier evidence and said the team owner had devised the whole scheme. M. Mellick's perjury then provided what is seen as the coup de grace to M. Tapie's campaign to depict himself as the innocent victim of a vengeful football establishment and the Gaullist-led Government.

The Mayor of Béthune had offered an alibi to M. Tapie by claiming that he had visited him in his Paris office at exactly the time the Olympic Marseilles owner was alleged to have been offering cash to the Valenciennes coach to lie to investigators. M. Mellick's story came unstuck when his assistant broke down in the court in Valenciennes on Friday and said he had forced her to lie about the Paris visit. M. Mellick compounded his sins by sticking to the tale in

impassioned evidence, only to abandon it on Saturday.

Politicians reacted to the lie angrily, saying that M. Mellick had discredited parliament. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist presidential candidate, said he found it sad.

True to form, M. Tapie spent the weekend insisting that he was innocent and that M. Mellick's disgrace was simply "a passing incident".

Russia's Chechen 'puppets' are despised on all sides

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

AS THE European Union moves to put the war in Chechnia on the back burner of international relations, the fighting appears to continue unabated. Russian planes were yesterday reported to have bombed Shali, headquarters of the Chechen separatist forces, and killed at least four civilians.

Last week President Yeltsin repeated his promise never to hold talks with General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen President, whom he called a gangster and said should stand trial for the murder of his people. Instead, Mr Yeltsin said, Russia would continue to support the "government of national revival" set up by Moscow under a provisional council with parts of the Chechen opposition.

On the ground, however, it seems highly unlikely that the "government" will be able to establish a stable authority in Chechnia. It appears to be despised not just by most Chechens, who see its members as quislings, but by its

Russian masters. The council is a mixture of former members of the Soviet Chechen establishment and former allies of General Dudayev who split from him during a power struggle in 1993. It does not include Russian Khasbulatov, the former Russian parliamentary Speaker, who is by far the most popular Chechen opposition figure. Other anti-Dudayev leaders have also distanced themselves from the council, apparently in the belief that it will never be able to consolidate any authority.

In the opposition headquarters of Znamenskoye, in Russian-held northern Chechnia, a supporter of the council said that Russian troops had abused allies of the "government". "If you're an opposition member, they jeer at you as a coward, and ask you why you aren't fighting," he said.

In Grozny, the Chechen capital, the new provisional Mayor's office has been established by the Russians in a former research institute, the

only key building in the city centre to have survived the war more or less intact. However, Russian officers do not hide their disdain for their Chechen "stooges". They complain that the "government" is deeply divided, corrupt and enjoys little authority among the people.

Opposition supporters in Grozny are caught between two dangers. They are as liable as anyone else to be beaten up or shot by the Russians. Several are also terrified of a possible terrorist campaign conducted by Chechen nationalists against pro-Russian "quislings".

The opposition is also in a difficult position psychologically. They hate General Dudayev, blame him for Chechnia's sufferings and support the Russian military intervention as a means of getting rid of him. However, they share their countrymen's pride in fighting for so long against overwhelming odds, and hate the Russian Army for its arrogance and oppression.



Sauli Niinistö, left, canvassing in Helsinki. Last night he conceded defeat

Helsinki coalition ousted

FROM REUTER
IN HELSINKI

FINLAND'S opposition Social Democratic Party won yesterday's general election, ending the four-year rule of the centre-right coalition government.

With 37 per cent of votes counted, the SDP had won about 66 seats, making it easily the largest party in the 200-seat parliament. However, SDP leader Paavo Lipponen, the man expected to be Finland's new Prime Minister, will need the support of at least one other party to form a majority government. Mr

Lipponen said negotiations with potential coalition partners would begin today. Sauli Niinistö, Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party, which formed part of the outgoing ruling coalition, conceded defeat.

Earlier opinion polls had predicted that the Social Democrats would regain their position as the country's biggest party with more than a quarter of the vote. Their main rivals, the Conservatives and the Centre Party, were running neck and neck at about 18 per cent. The election campaign had been unusually

subdued as all the main parties agreed that big cuts in public spending were needed if the welfare state model was to be saved. Finland is just emerging from recession, but unemployment is still over 19 per cent and public debts have soared to more than 60 per cent of GNP.

All this led to a strange campaign. Instead of the usual promises, parties competed over who could present the most reliable public sector cutting programmes. The budget deficit and state debt will limit any government's room for manoeuvre.

Bonn gives warning to militants

FROM REUTER
IN BONN

GERMANY promised yesterday to crack down on foreigners who import their violent political struggles into the country after firebombers attacked Turkish targets for the sixth consecutive night.

The police suspect that Kurdish militants, who are fighting Turkey for an independent homeland, were behind the attacks. "The Kurds are acting in a way we cannot accept," Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said during a meeting with his European Union colleagues in France. He said Germany should provide better protection for Turkish property, adding that he expected Turkish leaders to raise the subject when he visits Ankara on Thursday.

Germany's Turkish community has been unsettled by the attacks, worriedly eyeing the approach of tomorrow's Kurdish New Year, a traditional focus of guerrilla activity by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party.

The conspicuous absence on Thursday of President Izetbegovic of Bosnia from a commemorative ceremony in Washington, attended by President Tudjman of Croatia, hardly went unnoticed. Overshadowing that ceremony was the Croats' announcement that they were suspending relations with the Sarajevo Government over the General Santic incident.

The federation, signed into being a year ago in Washington, has evolved little in the past 12 months. Military cooperation, like everything else, has been limited to a few isolated cases where it has been immediately beneficial to both sides.

The Croats, who have military control over access routes to the central Government-held part of the country, demand high "taxes" from commercial, military and humanitarian aid convoys. By all accounts except their own, this is little more than highway robbery.

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JAZZ

Man and bone: George Chisholm celebrates his 80th birthday in fine company at the Purcell Room
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



FILM

An historical winner, perhaps also an Oscar winner: Alan Bennett's *The Madness of King George* goes on release
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

Gogol comes to Nottingham as the Playhouse stages the premiere of *The Nose* in a new dramatisation
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



BOOKS

So is Martin Amis worth half a million? Malcolm Bradbury delivers his verdict on *The Information*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
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Like the first time

ROCK

Foreigner/The Doobie Brothers
Wembley Arena

TIME was when either of these bands could have sold out Wembley. Not any more. With the back third of the 12,000-capacity arena screened off and most ticket holders yet to find their seats, the sight which greeted the Doobie Brothers was not encouraging.

Fancifully described in 1975 as "the hottest, richest, most influential rock 'n' roll heavyweights that ever fingered the frets of a Fender", the Doobies saw several big names pass through their ranks, notably Michael McDonald and Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, before splitting up in 1982. But although mob-handed with guitarists (three plus bass player), drummers (two) and others (keyboards, saxophone), the 1990s version was a little light on star appeal. It was left to founder members Pat Simmons and Tom Johnston to inject what personality they could into what was otherwise an anonymous team effort.

However, by the time they finished a string of their best-loved songs — *Long Train Running*, *China Grove* and *Listen To The Music* — the audience were on their feet, jiggling about with surprising enthusiasm given their comparatively advanced years.

A band whose big but hollow sound defined the very concept of "arena rock" in the 1970s and early 1980s, Foreigner's tuneful yet muscular "adult-oriented" approach was a forerunner to the more agile heavy rock of latterday superstars such as Van Halen and Bon Jovi.

Of Foreigner's original lineup, only guitarist Mick Jones and singer Lou Gramm have returned to pick up the reins with this version of the band, reconstituted in 1992. Like cowboys who have been in the saddle too long, both Gramm (44) and Jones (51) displayed noticeably bow-legged physiques as they strode around the Wembley stage, dishing out a thunderous opening volley of *Double Vision*, *Head Games* and *Cold As Ice*.

Aided by a superlative light show, theirs was an old-fashioned display of throaty vocalises, crunching power chords and stiff poses. Not exactly slow, but never fast, they maintained a weighty momentum, which carried them through to a finale which included their biggest hit, the uncharacteristically sensitive *I Want To Know What Love Is*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

DANCE: Richard Beeston reports from Moscow on the confusion and corruption that is threatening the Bolshoi



Out of step with modern Russia: Yuri Grigorovich in better days, surrounded by dancers of the Bolshoi Ballet on stage in 1989. The tough and dedicated artistic director has been forced to resign his post

Ballyhoo at the ballet

On a Friday night in Moscow, before a packed house at the Bolshoi Theatre, dancer Valeri Gromov strode calmly on stage and announced to a hushed audience that the evening's performance of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* was cancelled. After months of bitter feuding within the Bolshoi over how to reform the ailing and demoralised theatre, the row had finally spilt onto the stage.

In its 219-year history, the Bolshoi Theatre has been burnt down, evacuated to the Volga during the Second World War and even forced to change the wording of operas to satisfy Stalin's whims, but it has never before turned away an audience. As bemused spectators, some of whom had flown in from Germany and others from Russia's provinces, filed dejectedly out of the imposing neo-classical theatre, a damaging precedent had been set.

"We did not want to strike, but you have to understand the pressures that had been building up over the past nine months on all the performers," said Yuri Vetrov, the ballet director, who was one of 15 employees suspended in the wake of the one-night strike.

"Everyone was ready for the performance, but just before they were due to start there was an impromptu meeting. There and then it was decided to cancel the performance."

The action had been triggered by the announcement on the previous day that Yuri

Grigorovich, the ballet's artistic director and chief choreographer, was resigning under pressure from the management after a 30-year tenure. Aged 68, Grigorovich personified the tough and dedicated Soviet performing artist who helped to build the Bolshoi Ballet into a byword for technical mastery. At the height of his career in the 1960s and 1970s he turned the ballet into Russia's most prized cultural achievement.

But the country's subsequent political upheavals, and Grigorovich's stubborn refusal to accept the reforms sweeping Russia, rapidly eroded his life's work. The Bolshoi's most talented dancers were either lured away to the West for better-paid jobs or chased away by Grigorovich, whose dictatorial style inevitably clashed with his most promising stars. While the Bolshoi's standards began to fall, it was saddled with a huge and unproductive staff of more than 2,000 employees, many of whom depended for their future on Grigorovich. In the

words of one Moscow columnist, the Bolshoi was "over-stuffed, over-praised and over Grigorovich's dead body".

To save the theatre, the authorities decided to act decisively last year. One reason for the urgency was the cancellation of a potentially lucrative tour to Britain — scrapped because of poor ticket sales.

Owing largely to the Bolshoi's critically disastrous performance the year before at the Albert Hall, President Yeltsin, not known for his cultural pursuits, intervened personally last year, ordering a system of contracts to reduce staff, attract back talented dancers and prevent another theatrical dictatorship. Last week he sacked Vladimir Kokonin, the Bolshoi Theatre's director-general, whose feud with Grigorovich was blamed by many for causing the era of stagnation at the theatre.

While Grigorovich and Kokonin may have been the main reason for the Bolshoi's decline, it is not yet clear whether their removal will necessarily pull the struggling

theatre out of its deepening crisis. Vladimir Vasilyev, a former Bolshoi dancer chased out by Grigorovich, has been appointed the new artistic director, but his task in trying to reform a disgruntled and potentially hostile company will be enormous. Best remembered for his performance as Basil in *Don Quixote* and the title role in Grigorovich's own *Spartacus*, Vasilyev will require exceptional leadership skills to revive the Bolshoi's fortunes and lead it into the next century.

"To help the Bolshoi regain its reputation, many of Grigorovich's mediocre cronies will have to go and some younger talent will have to be promoted," said Gleditsinas Taranda, another acclaimed dancer who was sacked by Grigorovich last year but would like to dance at the Bolshoi again. "It is not impossible but it will be tough."

In addition to purely artistic problems, the theatre is saddled with a double lawsuit between the company and the sacked strike leaders, which is likely to perpetuate the staff problems for the foreseeable future. Also, the theatre is hampered with problems common to many state-owned enterprises in modern Russia. The Bolshoi's management is crippled by a stifling bureau-

crazy. There are not enough funds to maintain the theatre and its offshoots. More importantly the foundations beneath the 19th-century building in the heart of Moscow have been eroded by an underground river and require urgent and costly repairs.

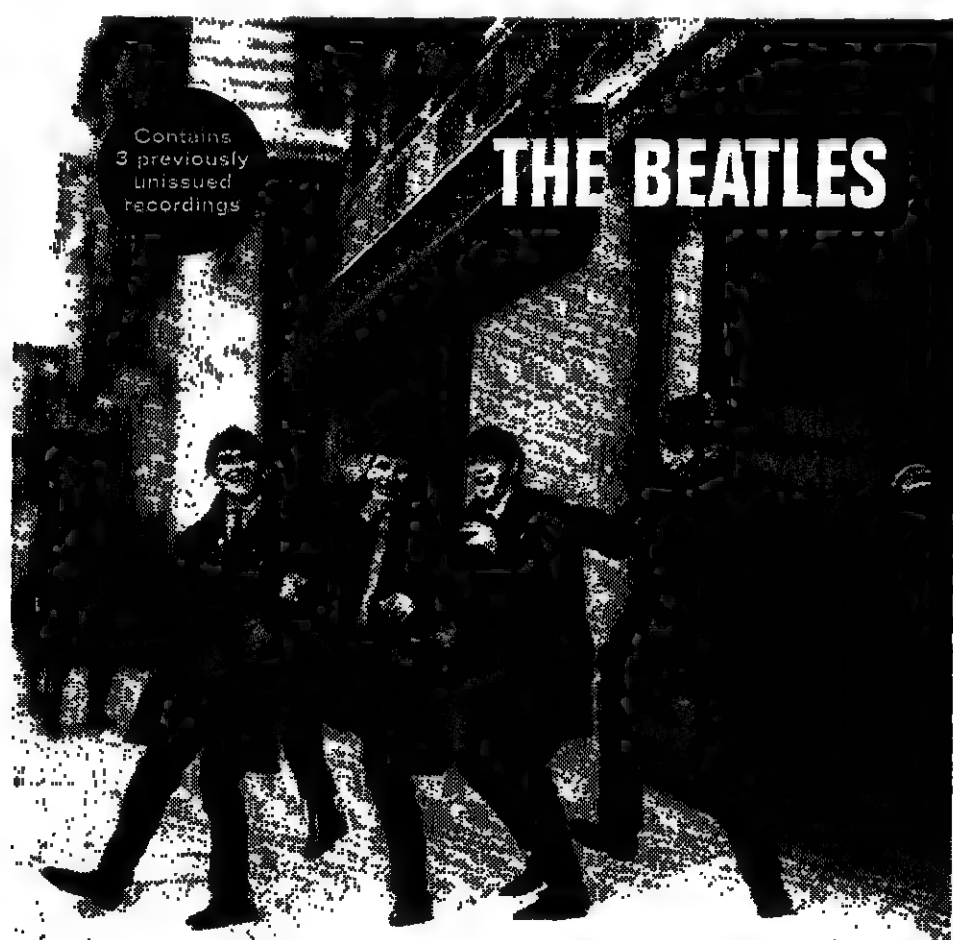
The scale of the problem is evident to anyone who strolls

beneath the Bolshoi's towering pink facade. Although there is no sign of any structural damage, another kind of rot has clearly set in. The ticket kiosks, which supposedly sell the best seats in the house for a mere £3, are permanently sold out, while ticket touts can sell you any seat in the house for £30. One dancer explained

that the mafia bought up all the tickets twice a day, and that somebody inside the theatre (he did not care to name him) was making a fortune out of the struggling institution.

"The Bolshoi is a very good symbol of Russia today," said Vladimir Kudryashov, an opera singer. "We have talented performers, an impressive history and one of the best venues in the world, but we are crippled by bureaucrats, the mafia and chaos. Still, I do not want the world to think we are finished. Somehow we will get by. The show will go on."

‘We are crippled by bureaucrats, the mafia and chaos, but the show will go on’

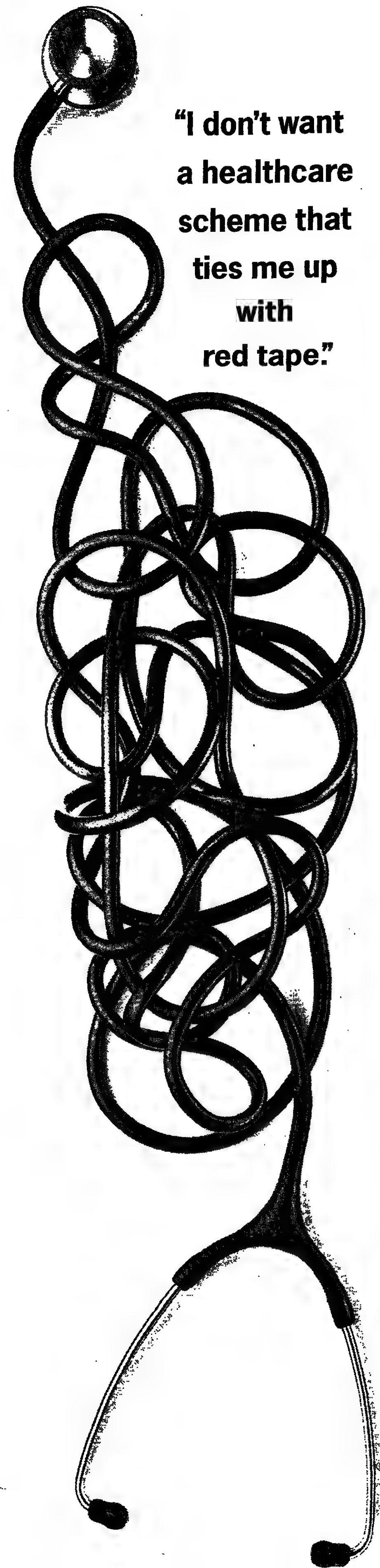


THE BEATLES

The new Beatles single
Baby It's You

It's out today
Available on CD, 7" vinyl and cassette

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ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
PREVIEWS FROM THURSDAY
OPENING 30 MARCH
THE BLUE BALL
a new play
by Paul Godfrey
Creston Theatre
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30 March at 7.00pm, then 31
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17-21 Jul at 7.30pm,
22-26 Jul at 2.30pm,
27-31 Jul at 7.30pm,
1 Aug at 2.30pm,
2-6 Aug at 7.30pm,
7-11 Aug at 2.30pm,
12-16 Aug at 7.30pm,
17-21 Aug at 2.30pm,
22-26 Aug at 7.30pm,
27-31 Aug at 2.30pm,
1 Sep at 7.30pm,
2-6 Sep at 2.30pm,
7-11 Sep at 7.30pm,
12-16 Sep at 2.30pm,
17-21 Sep at 7.30pm,
22-26 Sep at 2.30pm,
27-31 Sep at 7.30pm,
1 Oct



"I don't want a healthcare scheme that ties me up with red tape."

Debris threatens satellites □ Burglars raid Darwinian shrine □ Egyptologist's boat theory

Space race to destruction

THE human capacity to foul its nest is apparently limitless. The latest region to suffer is outer space, which, according to some Italian researchers, may already have gone past the point of no return.

If they are right, within a century or so putting a satellite into orbit will mean passing through a veritable shooting gallery of objects large enough to spell destruction. In the case of unmanned spacecraft this would be an expensive inconvenience, but for manned craft it could make space flight too hazardous to contemplate.

The analysis depends on a process in which the bigger objects already in orbit — spacecraft, discarded rocket bodies and the like — are broken down into ever smaller particles by a series of collisions among themselves. The process converts a population of a few large objects, which are sufficiently thinly spread not to be much of a concern, into a much larger number of smaller bodies still capable of penetrating and destroying satellites.

The Italian team, from the University of Pisa, explained the argument in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. If you start with initial populations in space of about 900



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

small objects weighing about five grams each, and about 300 large objects weighing about a ton each, the process causes the number of smaller particles to grow exponentially to more than ten million in about 50 years, which in turn increases the rate at which the larger bodies are destroyed.

Eventually, the population of the smaller bodies in near-Earth orbit rises to the point where there are so many of them that any newly introduced satellite can expect to be broken up within a decade or so. That doesn't sound too bad, but given the number of satellites in space it could mean that one was being completely destroyed every month or two, and many more effectively disabled.

Looking even further into the future, things would improve, as the small objects were smashed into dust too small to do damage, which would eventually burn up — but that could take several hundred years, and meanwhile we would be adding fresh fuel in the form of new satellites.

The analysis suggests that there is now sufficient material in stable orbits about 600 miles up to break into several tens of millions of ten-gram particles. So is the catastrophe already inevitable? Dr Alan Harris of

the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, is not sure.

It depends, he explains in an article in *Nature*, on the assumptions you make about how easy it is to smash an old satellite or rocket body into small pieces. Satellites, being metal, are not the same as rocky asteroids, which might be expected to break up fairly easily. While this does not alter the ultimate result, it does change the timescale, taking 500 years rather than 50 to reach dangerous numbers of small fragments in space.

Although Dr Harris is sanguine, the long-term answer must be to stop littering space with junk, and perhaps to start thinking about recovering some of the larger objects.

Darwin's haul

IF YOU are offered a chance to buy a set of miniatures of Charles Darwin's family in the next few weeks, don't hesitate — ring Crimestoppers on 0800 355111.

On March 8 a burglar broke into the Darwin Museum at Down House, near Sevenoaks in Kent, and got away with almost £30,000-worth of stuff, including personal effects of Charles Darwin.

Down House is the place where the great evolutionist lived and quietly plotted his revolution. An excellent place to visit, it is in urgent need of restoration, according to the Natural History Museum. The items lost include furniture with no obvious Darwin connection, ceramics, works of art and miniatures, including portrait medallions of scientists. Meanwhile, the museum needs to raise at least £1.5 million by November for its restoration plans.

Pharaoh afloat



IN 1954 the remains of a boat made of cedar were found near the Great Pyramid of Giza, tomb of King Cheops, in Egypt. Now, thanks to the enthusiasm of an American Egyptologist, a model of the 4,000-year-old craft has been tested in a water tank in New York.

The question was whether the graceful boat was really intended for this world, or the next. Dr Bob Brier of Long Island University decided to find out. With colleagues from the university he created a plan of the original vessel, now to be found in the museum at Giza.

Then carvers created a seven-foot model of the boat out of pine and glue, including a dozen tiny oars. The model was tested on February 23 in a tank at the Webb Institute in Glen Cove, New York. Did it float? It certainly did.

"We pulled it through the water several hundred times under different conditions," Dr Brier told *Science*. Though not designed for sea journeys because the low-riding craft would have been swamped, he concluded that it would have served perfectly well as a river boat. "It is an elegant, beautifully-designed craft, with wonderful properties in the water."

The most striking thing about the test was that the boat left little wake, causing naval architects to marvel. The chances are that it may have been used for a single voyage, carrying the pharaoh's body silently through the water to burial. Dr Brier doubts it could have done more than that, because the original was lashed together by ropes which would not have lasted long.



Live turtles in Indonesia pinned by the flippers to immobilise them. The country slaughters thousands every year

Have we killed the giant turtle?

One of the ocean's most beautiful and ancient creatures, the turtle, may not survive more than another 30 years. Scientists believe extinction is now a real possibility because of man's seemingly insatiable desire to turn the turtle into ornaments, soup, traditional medicines, satay and omelettes.

Sue Miller, biodiversity officer with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (Sprep), an organisation set up by governments in the area, says: "If we go on as at present, most turtle species will have died out by early next century." That is a perilously short time left for an animal that has been around for more than a hundred million years.

The Pacific is home to the world's last great concentration of turtles. Populations in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean have already been severely cut, but even in the vast, largely uninhabited Pacific region, turtles are in trouble.

In French Polynesia there has been a 90 per cent drop since the 1970s in Green Turtles going ashore to nest; in Australia, an 80 per cent drop in nesting Loggerhead Turtles in the past ten years. Scientists also think there are now no more than a few hundred breeding Hawksbills, the turtle most prized for its decorative shell.

So worried are the South Pacific nations that they have declared 1995 the Year of the Turtle — the first time they have joined forces on a conservation issue.

Turtles can live as long as 100 years, and do not start breeding until they are 20 or 30 years old. So those around today are, in part, a reflection of the turtle "harvest" in the 1960s, when today's turtle parents were born. And it will be 20 or 30 years before the full effects of today's far higher killing rates become apparent.

One of the curious characteristics of these antediluvian creatures is that

Prized for its valuable shell and meat, an ancient ocean creature may soon be extinct.

Jo Andrews reports

they return to nest only on the beach on which they were born. But 30 years on, they find that many of the isolated beaches on which they hatched have been developed for tourism. There, unable to lay their eggs, they die without reproducing.

Ms Miller is optimistic that the turtle can be saved. "It is not too late. We need to educate people on the Pacific islands to take fewer turtles, to question whether they really need to kill them, and above all we need to stop the slaughter of turtles prompted by tourists from the developed countries."

The main offender is probably Indonesia, particularly Bali. The Indonesians kill between 30,000 and 50,000 turtles a year to satisfy tourist demand. As a result turtles have not been sighted off Bali for several years, so the fishing boats go further into the Pacific for the catch. The turtles are brought back alive and kept for weeks in watery stockades, exhibited for Europeans, who are encouraged to ride them. Then, pinned through the flippers, they are slung on bamboo poles, and transported to back-street slaughterhouses, there to be laid on their backs and gutted while still alive. The meat is made into stew and satay, the eggs into omelettes, the shells are worked into ornaments: none of which is illegal.

International trade in turtles, however, is banned under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered

Species (CITES) legislation. So any tourist who takes a turtle product back home to Europe, America, Australia or Japan is breaking the law. The customs warehouses of Auckland, piled to the ceiling with hundreds of tortoiseshell items, bear witness to the inadequacy of the law to protect the turtle.

Rob Suisted, of New Zealand's Conservation Department, says: "This is a matter of ignorance, not a matter of people deliberately trying to break the law. Most simply have no idea the turtle is protected. They must be educated."

The Year of the Turtle aims to do just that. Ms Miller says: "The only thing that will stop the slaughter of turtles in Bali and other exotic holiday destinations is for the tourists themselves to refuse to eat turtle meat or to buy tortoiseshell ornaments."

We have to tell the Pacific people their turtles are unique. Once they are gone, they won't be replaced." She emphasises that they are not asking islanders on subsistence diets to give up turtle meat completely, but to reconsider their practices.

The campaign has scored its first success. Fiji recently said it would ban commercial trade in turtles for a year and Sprep wants other island nations to follow suit. Conserving turtles can work only as a co-operative effort because they migrate up to two thousand miles across the Pacific to breed, passing through the waters of several countries.

As Noah Idechong, a marine resources officer from the island state of Palau, says: "What is the point in our protecting turtles for them to be caught by the Indonesians?" Sadly, Indonesia is not part of this campaign.

In Tahitian mythology, the turtle is a messenger from the gods. In the next few years, it is a line of divine communication that may cease to exist.

Science puts on a revealing show

A week of exhibits will offer a feast of scientific knowledge

Computers arriving at Euston station this week are in for a surprise. Among the familiar racks of ties and socks they will find a newcomer called "Genes Are Us". No, not a frightful sartorial pun about British Rail's commercial ambitions, but an invitation on behalf of the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust to a lively exhibition that tells the story of how our genes make us what we are. As an added bargain, if the evening train is delayed, commuters can drop in and learn how to fingerprint their DNA.

This is just one of hundreds of scientific exhibits and demonstrations that are dotted all over the country this week as part of "SET95", the national week of science, engineering and technology.

The idea was floated two years ago by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It stemmed from increasing concern about the state of British science. A declining number of children wished to study science at school and university, government support for research was falling and, as judged by the output of research papers, Britain seemed to be slipping behind its competitors. And science was getting a bad press. Barely a day passed without a story of the dire consequences of meddling with our genes or trying to understand the origins of the universe.

The concerns of the association were not misplaced. Many of our problems stem from our scientific illiteracy. This was highlighted last week by the way in which our media and politicians dealt with the sad case of child B, the young girl with leukaemia. Much of the confusion, ill-informed comment and distress to her family and doctors could have been avoided by an awareness of what modern medical science can — and cannot — deliver.

Such thoughts as these stimulated the association to add a new festival to its already extensive programme for the public appreciation of science. The first venture of this kind, SET94, attracted thousands of schoolchildren to exhibits all over the country. To judge by the richness and diversity of the fare that is described in its 48-page programme, SET95 will be even better.

Encouragingly, although London and the leading university cities offer a scientific feast, some of the most eye-catching events are to be found elsewhere. In Middlesbrough, for example, Helen Sharman, Britain's first woman astronaut, will talk about her experience of being in space. Other offerings include an introduction to the mysteries of haemophilia "Blood, Glorious Blood" (Canterbury), "Gulp", a performance about water, weather and water conservation (Woodbridge), and "Bugs in Your Bed" in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Our schoolchildren must be introduced to the notion that science, as well as being enormous fun and a rewarding career, is very much a part of their day-to-day lives. What better time to start than this week?

SIR DAVID WEATHERALL
The author, former President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, is Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University. The programme for SET95 is available at local libraries. Or phone 0171-973 3079/3500 for a copy.

Leading article, page 17

Blushing



Jennifer Laing with new power haircut: "I honestly had my hair cut short because I felt like it," she says. "I was not trying to make a statement"

Superwoman's back

Saatchi's has lured
back the boss it was
once forced to give a
Ferrari. Julia
Llewellyn Smith
reports

Jennifer Laing, the new chairman of Saatchi's, is late. Which gives me plenty of time to survey my surroundings: plate-glass electronic doors; tape and panels; women striding around in leather trousers; a beautiful black receptionist singing "Good afternoon, Laing Henry".

Laing's office is an elegant goldfish bowl: white leather swivel chair, mammoth television set, baskets of Interflora flowers, accompanied no doubt by toadying congratulations and — aha — that oh-so-1990s personal touch, a huge slice of lemon meringue pie on the glass table. "It's to wind Jennifer up," confides her secretary. The boss loves her food.

More important, however, is the red plastic Ferrari nestled in the bookcase. This is no executive toy. It is advertising shorthand, an instant reminder to wavering clients and straggly creative directors that they are dealing with an industry legend. This is Jennifer Red-Ferrari Laing, the woman who, in 1981, declared that nothing less would lure her back to Saatchi's. By 1987 she was joint chairman.

Yet the following year she gave back her car keys for a more subtle status symbol: her own agency, Aspect Hill Holliday, a loss-making company that ranked 65th in the British league table. In 1990 she and her partner, Max Henry, renamed it Laing Henry. Despite the timing ("the start of the worst recession ever"), they promoted the Wales Tourist Board, Wimpey Homes and Müller Light yoghurts, and boasted a £98,000 post-tax profit by 1994.

But now the prodigal daughter is returning. On Monday Saatchi's announced that Laing is back with a £175,000 salary to sweep up the mess left by January's ousting of Maurice Saatchi, who departed with three senior managers, 14 staff and the big US account holder, Mars. The news has been greeted rapturously; the feeling, say insiders, is that mother has returned to comfort her children.

And here is the saviour of British advertising, swooping through the door in a khaki mac and a crackle of energy. "I'm so sorry," she cries. "But my client was 40 minutes late for

lunch, so what do you do?" Bustle, bustle as Laing derobes and settles herself on the cream sofa. She is a tall, beaky-faced live-wire, who could do — as she admits several times — with losing a stone. She is dressed for success in black and white, with a bouncy mop of grey hair. Until recently her locks were long and flowing. "Yes, yes," she says ruefully. "My power haircut."

Poor Laing. She made her name selling the mythology of the perfect lifestyle. Now she is being hoisted by her own clichés of career women. "I honestly had my hair cut short because I felt like it," she says. "I was not trying to make a statement." She cheerfully admits to lying about her age ("I'm sticking to 46") and says later: "I really ought to exercise. I feel perfectly fit and well but I really ought to." Why? Because your clients (the Department of Health is one) demand that message? "Ha, ha. Fair comment."

But she manipulates images if they suit. Take the Ferrari. "Oh, that was just a symbol," she says. "An assertive, conspicuous symbol of success. Totally inappropriate to life in the 1990s. Awful really." Her welcome-back present is a Lexus (Toyota) as an esteemed Saatchi client. "It's perfect for now, top of the range, environmentally friendly."

Laing uses such ad-speak all the time, burbling infectiously about markets, consumers, culture and brand leaders. The last is the rank Saatchi's holds in the advertising world. "I am going to make absolute-

ly sure that's the place it stays. It will continue to pioneer those enduring creative ideas, and it will make incredibly sure that the remaining clients — and there are 100 of them, by the way — stay loyal."

Like any workaholic, Laing dislikes the tag, although she would have got nowhere without it. "I have a partner who I like to see sometimes, and I really do try to have time to myself at weekends. Holidays? I'm not very good at them. Long weekends are the name of the game these days."

There are no regrets. This is a happy woman, a woman who rightly resents whispers about lack of children and her marriage that failed because she was never there. "Women can't have it all," she maintains. "It makes people very cross but it's true. I suppose my problem starts with the notion I'm successful, because I have a top job. Well, I do because I have more hours to commit to it than women who have children. It doesn't make me more successful than other women, I'm successful on different terms." And so she deserves to be judged, although to do so might demand a certain scepticism while we are bombarded by her advertisements.

How to make films and influence people

Valerie Grove on the style of the producer behind *The Madness of King George*

When Stephen Evans, stockbroker turned film producer, first got into the film and theatre business he kept committing faux pas. He thought you could tell playwrights frankly what you thought of their new play when it wasn't praise.

He told John Mortimer how much he had liked *Otherwise Engaged* (by Simon Gray). And the night he first got through to Ken Branagh he went to the house of a friend in Chelsea and drank a bottle of Bollinger before discovering he was in the wrong house: 51 Eaton Place instead of Eaton Terrace.

His languid voice and amiable manner charmed Branagh, and so did his willingness to summon up large sums of money. Luckily this was before Black Monday in 1987 and Evans was feeling flush with City deals. At first he wanted only to send Branagh to the Edinburgh Festival, but Branagh's ambition wrinkled out of him £60,000 for *Twelfth Night* at the Riverside, and then the backing for the film of *Henry V*. "What the hell, I thought."

Evans, who lives just off Eaton Square with his wife and two sons, was born in Luton, Bedfordshire, the son of schoolteachers. In 1946, after a nice ordinary childhood, he read politics and economics at Reading University. Then he met a stockbroker in a pub and so impressed him with his golf that he was offered a job. At 30 he fell in with David Wickens of British Car Auctions.

What he learnt from mixing with Wickens is how much can be achieved by showing a bit of style and getting on with people. "How you go to Nashville in the Wickens way: you have a long lunch at the Savoy, get the 6pm Concorde, check into a penthouse suite in New York, then take a private jet to Nashville. So when people say, 'Don't you find the film business glamorous?' I say no, not compared with my life with dear old Wickens." *Henry V* lost a couple of million, but *Much Ado* was a hit. After "young Ken" went off to do *Frankenstein*, Evans took over the Renaissance Theatre Company with David Parfitt. By then he had also made a deal with Alan

Bennett and Nick Hytner to make *The Madness of King George*.

He flew, Wickens-style, to New York to see the play, and got the backing of Channel 4 and Sam Goldwyn with a "my word is my bond" handshake. With Bennett and Hytner he set up a one-off company called Mad George films. The budget was £10 million but it will make them all rich.

Now he is making deals with Sam Mendes and Stephen Daldry. He wants to film *Daniel Deronda*. He is talking to Michael Holroyd about a film about Augustus John. All the



Evans: broker turned producer

British film industry lacks, he says, is chutzpah and drive — "We've got the writers, the actors, the directors, the cameramen." Today he flies to New York to see Tom Stoppard's *Habgood*, to which Stockard Channing has the film rights.

He likes zipping about, finding out who is hot. It makes his dinner-party conversation much more amusing than when he was in the City. On the other hand, he says, things are now so exciting in the Square Mile that there is a big, expensive film to be made about men and women in suits in 1995: "Risk! Lloyd's, Barings, derivatives: who loses money; who commits suicide; who commits adultery; who commits crime."

"Whoever does that film first is on to a winner." Needless to say he has writers working on it.

Black-tie charity bashes bring in the money, but I'd pay more to have a quiet night in

Blushing over charity's dirty work

IF YOU admire those who break records and push back frontiers, then salute Jeremy Beadle: he has managed to be too vulgar for the Duchess of York. After his appearance as MC of a bingo game at last week's Children in Crisis dinner, the TV jester has apparently been moved to apologise to the royal one.

When he told all the men to stand on chairs and drop their trousers if they wanted to win a trip on the Orient Express, explains Mr Beadle, it was a "spur of the moment" impulse. He is sorry if the resulting mass de-bag embarrassed the Duchess. Actually, the photographs appear to show her roaring with laughter, even though an organiser observed to the press that perhaps "in an ideal world, the man sitting next to the Duchess would not have dropped his trousers". The only lady on the record as being shocked is, er, Ivana Trump. She calls it "distasteful behaviour".

Which makes her sound like a duchess: except, of course, that the real Duchess was laughing.

Fergie, trousers, Beadle, bingo... why am I wasting your time with this trashy tale? Ah, because it was for charity. It raised £36,000. Among the bewildered on-lookers was the mayor of a Polish village where children will benefit from the bash. What will he tell those distant innocents, do you think, about the night in the historic Merchant Taylor's Hall in the great City of London, when good people in unimaginably expensive clothes unbuttoned their flies for royalty, all to serve the poor?

These black-tie charity events, even when the trousers stay hoisted, have now brought me to such a pitch of embarrassment that I can barely



LIBBY PURVES

speak. The spectacle of rich people having expensive larks for "charity" reduces me to whimpering. While nobody actually uses the legendary City grace — "Lord, bless us who feast while others starve" — it haunts all such proceedings. Occasionally, if the cause concerns something which might benefit even the diners — say medical research, or the RNLI — it is bearable. When the cause is real deprivation, the very prawns in the cocktail seem to curl up in protest.

On charity committees, they now know my limitations. I am as enthusiastic as anybody else for neighbourhood fork suppers, hunger lunches, tin-rattling, the badgering of business sponsors and endless fundraising silliness with kites or rats; but the ball sub-committee must do without

me. Nor am I any good at that very British task of persuading fat-cats seeking social cachet to pay extra for a guaranteed introduction to the royal patron. People do in the hard-nosed world of professional charity, a personal smirk from the Princess of Wales has a definite price tag. Cringe, shrivel, blush!

Yet these things do make money. Dirty work, but someone's got to do it: my cringing is only cowardice. The dismal fact is that while widows and pensioners may cheerfully put their mite in the collecting tin out of pure altruism, to extract money from the socialite rich you need bait. Maybe there should be a circular to people like me:

"Send £75 to our charity, and receive a ticket to eat quietly with your own friends on a night of your choice. For £100, we guarantee that you will not be joined by Ivana Trump, Fergie, or Jeremy Beadle." I'd pay.

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Matthew Parris



National Lottery logic is simple: you cannot win if you do not play; if you do not play, you cannot lose

My thanks, and those of millions of my countrymen, to Heritage Secretary Stephen Dorrell for bringing into our lives a little joy, once a week. Ten minutes to eight each Saturday evening has become a new date in our diaries. It really is a stroke of genius. To have combined the spreading of so much happiness with a scheme which actually enriches the Treasury, and diversifies hundreds of millions of pounds to marvellous causes like the English National Opera, the Royal Ballet and other leisure activities which the upper middle classes enjoy but cannot be expected to pay for, deserves all our thanks. Raising a glass to Mr Dorrell, I sat back last Saturday to savour the moment that reliably merry moment when a large number of Britons become a little richer, and a small number of us become a great deal richer. Each one of us knows, with a security based upon simple arithmetic, that we should win, and roughly how much.

Who are we, you ask — we millions, confident of our profit, who can read the future?

We are the people who have not bought tickets for the National Lottery. We never do. We are all sorts of people, people in every walk of life, quite unacquainted with one another, but united in the certain knowledge of this: that the end of our days — come rain or shine, sickness, health, good fortune or ruin — there is one thing we will never do. We will never, in any conceivable circumstance, buy a ticket for the National Lottery.

So far, I have won about £200 from not buying a ticket in the National Lottery. This is because I could easily afford a £5 wager or more every week and, had I bought tickets regularly since the lottery started, would have laid out more than £200, won a little of it back, and ended up in debt to roughly that amount. A handful of my fellow citizens would have wagered much more, and lost much more, and can therefore raise their glass to the TV screen in gratitude for even greater savings.

Millions of my countrymen are not so lucky. They would only have been able to afford about £1 per week, would overhwhelmingly not have recouped any of that yet, and are therefore only about £20 richer for not having joined the scramble. Still, that's a modest meal out for two.

Nor do our winnings stop there. For because of this marvellous institution which we are refraining from patronising, a new source of funding has been found, much of it from the poor, for benefits which we taxpayers would otherwise

have been asked to fund. Don't believe the lies about these lottery funds being "extra" for the arts. If you were Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Arts Minister asked you for an increase in the next spending round, would you really ignore the fact that the lottery had just opened a cornucopia of new funding for him? So the lottery has enriched us relative to our gambling compatriots. Here is a tax avoidance scheme which anyone can join.

I intend to give my own £200 winnings to the West Derbyshire Conservative Association, in gratitude for the achievements of the Tories over the past 16 years. For has there ever been a time in British history when the middle classes were so secure? Baroness Thatcher has murdered socialism and John Major has buried it. The government-in-waiting, presumably Mr Blair's, could not and does not even wish to reverse any of these changes. All Mr Blair wants is to be Prime Minister, and if we will let him he promises in return to destroy the

Labour Party — or anything remotely recognisable as such.

He has begun already. We can look forward to an era in which taxes are low, our assets secure, our lifestyle unthreatened, and in which no serious political party represents the poor... and, to cap it all, the un-

derclass will pay for English National Opera. John Major could never have contrived so fantastic a plot.

Here in Derbyshire my lodger, who is unemployed, keeps a cat, Tess. In a little jar she has been putting aside £1 per week in case Tess should ever fall ill and she should be unable to pay for the vet. Tess is sitting on the sofa as I type.

What this cat does not know is that last week her mistress raided the vet's jar to buy a ticket for the National Lottery. On Saturday she learnt that she had not won.

I reach out to scratch Tess under her chin, where she likes it. She purrs. My darling Tess, would it comfort you to know that should sickness strike, the vet prove too costly and the jar empty, your sacrifice has purchased at least one millisecond of the latest performance of *Swan Lake*?

There's a glass of wine left in that bottle I purchased with the £5 I didn't spend on the lottery this week. I raise it to Mr Dorrell and his wonderful invention, to my lodger and her failed mathematical reasoning, to those millions of abstainers who still believe in arithmetic, to the next conservative government of whichever party, and to you, Tess. Your very good health!

Of the world's most powerful leaders, only Helmut Kohl exceeds the John Major standard

World leaders in mediocrity

There was a terrible period in my childhood when the world was governed by an extraordinary collection of criminal lunatics and time-serving inadequates — the Nazis in Germany, the Bolsheviks in Russia, an Imperialist clique in Tokyo, Mussolini in Rome, the national Government under Ramsay MacDonald in Britain, and a succession of cigarette-stained French prime ministers. Even in that dark period one could look to Washington where, from 1933 onwards, Franklin Roosevelt stood out as a leader who was both sane and strong. It was not until Winston Churchill became Prime Minister in 1940 that Roosevelt had a companion.

Nowadays the inadequacy of the world's leaders is almost equally striking, although it is their mediocrity which is remarkable rather than the hellish evil of a Hitler or Stalin. If one takes the Group of Seven countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — and adds Spain and the great powers of China and Russia, one cannot see any great leader. There is no Roosevelt in Washington, and no sign of a Churchill emerging in Britain.

The British have a Prime Minister who is unfortunately the most unpopular in the history of opinion polls. His party would lose any early election by a landslide; his foreign policy has left Britain almost isolated both from the major European powers and from the United States; parts of the British economy may go into the next recession without ever having recovered from the last one. Yet these ten world leaders, John Major is probably one of the better. He may be limited but he is honest. He is well-intentioned, he is no fool. He is serious, he masters his brief. He has learnt in office; Britain is not led by a man who is either a crook or a coward. That may not be enough, but

it is more than some of the other leading nations can now claim.

Indeed, one could usefully apply the John Major standard to the rest of the world leaders. It would not bring Britain out as the pre-eminent nation. When Samuel Johnson published his *Dictionary* after the 40 members of the French Academy had failed over decades to produce their projected French dictionary, the great actor David Garrick wrote an epigram:

Talk of war with a Briton, he'll boldly advance
But one English soldier will beat ten of France
Would we alter the boast from the sword to the pen,
Our odds are still greater, still greater our sum
... And Johnson, well-armed like a hero
has beat 40 French, and will beat 40 more.

We cannot reasonably claim that one John Major is worth ten Edouard Balladurs, let alone 40, but one can apply the character test: would you let this man marry your daughter, supposing he were free, that she wished to take him for her lawfully wedded husband, and that she was prepared, in the old-fashioned way, to accept paternal or maternal advice? Boris Yeltsin, the alcoholic victor of Gruzia, as a son-in-law? Surely not. Bill Clinton, that morally disadvantaged Rhodes scholar? You may be joking. Tomichi Murayama, half turncoat, half nonentity? One would scarcely welcome it.

Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish matinee idol now declining into a slew of accusations of murdering Basques, employing corrupt ministers and genocide against Newfoundland fish? Not for any well-brought-up daughter. Nor do I think most young women would be taken with the idea of marrying whoever may turn out to be Deng Xiaoping's successor. China still has too big a democratic deficit.

For anything I have heard to the contrary, a responsible parent would have no reason to forbid the banns to

William Rees-Mogg

Jean Chrétien of Canada, Edouard Balladur — almost the ideal son-in-law — John Major himself, Lamberto Dini or Helmut Kohl. Of the ten world leaders, five would pass the son-in-law good character test, as reasonable human beings. Most of the five leaders who would not reach this level of sympathy are also incompetent — Bill Clinton is at least as nasty as Lyndon Johnson and at least as bad a President as Jimmy Carter, to compare him with the last two Democrats to reach the White House.

If one takes the five more sym-

thetic leaders, only one of them stands out as a successful statesman, and that is Chancellor Kohl. He is not a Roosevelt, a Churchill, a de Gaulle or a Bismarck. He is, however, a shrewd politician with a very strong will, a great survivor: he is also a democrat, even though his personal style is rather heavy. He presided over the reunification of his country, which is an historic achievement. He is trying to remodel Europe in the modern German tradition under German leadership. That policy may fail — it is too early to tell — but it is at present, as the Americans say, "the only game in town". Chancellor Kohl lacks breadth or originality of mind: he is neither an intellectual nor a prophet, but is at present the one world leader who is both a decent man and an established power. He is, quite simply, the best.

Of the other four basically sympathetic leaders, three seem more than likely to lose their next election. It would be amazing if John Major were to defeat Tony Blair in 1996 or 1997; Lamberto Dini is not a party leader, and has no democratic basis or prospects; Edouard Balladur seems likely to lose the presidential election to his more populist opponent, Jacques Chirac, though Chirac's simultaneous courting of every type of opinion, flitting with every mademoiselle on every street corner in France, is becoming a little ridiculous —

Wanted: middle-class magic

How to provide reassurance is Whitehall's mission, says Peter Riddell



Kenneth Clarke has defined the problem. But is there a solution? The absence of the "feel-good" factor, that over-used but evocative term, could doom the Tories' chances of re-election. Senior ministers and Downing Street advisers are busy looking for ways of dealing with these worries — not just by producing policies for the Tory election manifesto, but also by working up new initiatives for the next few weeks and months. And Mr Clarke himself is neither as fatalistic nor as passive as his comments have been interpreted. Mr Clarke's admission that people are not going to feel more secure and comfortable for at least another couple of years, until the Government has delivered rising prosperity, was in many respects a statement of the obvious. It was neither a gaffe, as much of the press has inane described it, nor a clanger, as that old intriguer Sir George Gardiner said yesterday, while promoting the Right's attack on the Chancellor for disingenuously proclaiming loyalty to the Prime Minister.

Rather, Mr Clarke's remarks, echoing several speeches he has made over the past few months, are merely a starting point. As I discussed in this column two weeks ago, the central political problem facing the Tories is middle-class insecurity — worries over redundancy, a weak housing market, crime, standards in public services, and providing for old age. These factors have contributed to a record defection from the Tories among core middle-class supporters. How to provide reassurance is the common theme of the policy reviews now under way in Whitehall. These concerns were repeatedly underlined

in two wide-ranging sessions which John Major recently held with ministers of state and under-secretaries.

The most long-term of these reviews is the preparation of ideas for the next manifesto by more than two dozen groups of ministers, backbenchers and experts, chaired by Cabinet ministers and co-ordinated by Norman Blackwell, the new head of the Downing Street Policy Unit. He is already earning a reputation for quiet thoroughness and strategic thinking, even though he has yet to show whether he has the necessary political skills and instincts. That role is being performed more by Howell James, who took over as political secretary in Downing Street just before Christmas and is already being credited with adding some political punch to the Prime Minister's performances.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The long-term exercise is still at the stage of trawling ideas from think-tanks. More important, however, for the Tories' prospects is the work to see what can be done before, rather than after, the next election — for instance, via legislation for the next session of Parliament.

As always, short-term pressures predominate. There is talk, so far no more, of saying something before the May local elections, though no one is quite sure what could stem the Tories' probable rout then. Given the recent apocalyptic talk, Mr Major's speech to the Conservative Central Council on Saturday week has even more importance than usual.

His advisers are considering how he can address the issue of middle-

class insecurity. There are no obvious answers. The pressures of international competition which are leading to continuing cutbacks by large companies, and resulting insecurities among managers as well as blue-collar workers, are not going to disappear. Nor are there easy ways of offering reassurance about crime or standards in health and education. And government policies, such as encouraging more flexible labour markets and cutting social security help for mortgage borrowers, increase insecurity.

Most immediate complaints are about the housing market. Tory MPs and various outside bodies have made suggestions to the Government about stimulating activity, and hence house prices, by abolishing stamp duty or raising mortgage interest relief for first-time buyers (reversing

the current cut in relief). Such measures might, officials suspect, merely result in a short-lived boost to activity and prices, with no significant lasting impact.

Any substantial boost would both cost money and could have undesirable side-effects. If economic recovery is to be sustained, the current emphasis upon raising exports and investment as opposed to personal consumption must be maintained. Public borrowing is falling from its earlier high levels, though last week's figures for February raised questions about the pace of decline. There will be no scope for a relaxation of public spending controls of the kind seen before the Tories' victories in 1983, 1987 and 1992. We are still paying for the 1991-92 increase in spending with tax increases. There will be tax cuts, but they will be smaller than the increases since 1993, otherwise long-term economic prospects will be damaged. And with its greater public influence, the Bank of England would offset any action which might threaten higher inflation by raising interest rates.

Nonetheless, the surprisingly neglected factor in recent discussions has been next November's Budget, and possibly another one a year later, which could obviously affect the "feel-good" factor. Mr Clarke may be tightly constrained, but he is nothing if not a highly political Chancellor. But he is reluctant to raise expectations now, not just because of uncertainties about the scale of what will be possible, but because he wants to make the maximum political impact when he can cut taxes.

There is no apparent appetite in the Treasury for early action, and there are no signs yet of any proposals being worked up into detailed plans. But if the Tories remain in a mess, there will be strong pressure for at least the trailing of what might be done to reassure the middle classes.

Mr Major himself is far from being depressed. He has recently been pointing to the remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of Edouard Balladur and Jacques Chirac in the French presidential elections as evidence that even big poll leads can be reversed. But voters will have to feel more secure and optimistic first.

Sick as a coach

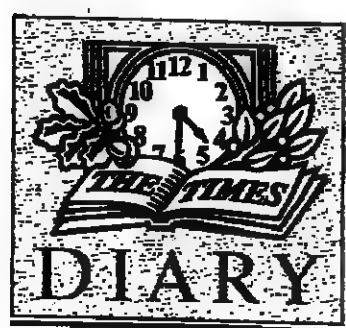
IT WAS a glorious performance from Rob Andrew that helped England to win at Twickenham on Saturday. But the thrill of victory over Scotland was marred for the England stand-off half because the man who coached him to kick was unable to get a ticket to watch the match.

The kicking maestro, Dave Alred, spent much of the week putting several England players through their paces. He was with Andrew for most of Friday afternoon, and coached him again on Saturday morning before the match began.

But when England returned to their team hotel just before lunch-time on Saturday, Alred drove back to his West Country home to watch the match on television.

Rob Andrew was disappointed, to say the least. "It was unfortunate that the Rugby Football Union could not find Dave a ticket for the game. You would have perhaps thought that somebody putting in as much work as he has done would have been able to get in."

"Dave doesn't just work with me but with several of the England backs. Younger players like Kyran



Bracken and Tony Underwood are benefiting from his experience and they represent England's future. I was disappointed that Dave was not there."

Alred has rarely been recognised by the authorities at Twickenham, perhaps because he has been associated with American football. But his skills are acknowledged in Australia, where he has conducted special coaching sessions with players such as David Campese.

Forking out

NO EXPENSE has been spared for Her Majesty's state visit this week

to South Africa. The Government there has just spent £20,000 on tablecloths and napkins for a banquet this week at President Mandela's Cape Town residence, attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Expenditure on the yellow floral-patterned cloths with matching table skirts and cream-coloured overlays is wholly justified, says the public works department. The table linen is needed in any case for Tuynhuys (Mandela's official residence) and Parliament.

Earlier this year, the Government bought £22,000-worth of silver and porcelain and £400,000-worth of cutlery imported from a British firm with a royal warrant. At least Her Majesty will feel at home with the knives and forks.

Foot notes

IMPENDING legal action has done nothing to curb Michael Foot's literary output. He has just delivered his biography of H.G. Wells to his publishers. Doubtless, a degree of scandal is promised, for he has explored the wilder shores of the writer's private life.

Foot commissioned many searing pieces from Wells while Editor of the *London Evening Standard* in 1942, and he knew the writer

well. But there is "nothing salacious" about his interest, he insists. His editor, Sally Gaminara, implies otherwise. "Wells was a radical, both in politics and his love life — he had two marriages and a series of mistresses. Michael has discovered a lot of new material, particularly about his last mistress, Moura Budberg. The book is an eulogy to a wild and brilliant man. He believed in free love and practised it."

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has gone to the dogs, as it were. She has given permission for a greyhound race to be named

after her. The first Queen Mother Cup will take place on Mothering Sunday at Sheffield's Owlerton Stadium.

Rose-scented

HIS EXCELLENCY the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, Ghazi Algasbi, has displayed a side to himself which one would not immediately associate with his somewhat illiberal regime. He has just produced a volume of love poems, translated into English. *Dusting the Colour from Roses* features a Pre-Raphaelite maiden gazing reflectively from the cover.

The ambassador is patient with his muse, even though she once failed to visit him for an entire year. She timed her arrival to perfection, however, when his grandson, Fahd, was born: "I wrote the entire poem celebrating his birth in the car on the way back from the hospital."

Major loss

JEREMY HANLEY's too-curling attempt to kick off the Tories' local election campaign by smearing Labour councils is not the only setback for John Major over the May elections. His greatest constituency

ally is quitting as Tory leader of Huntingdonshire District Council. Derek Holley, a councillor for 13 years, claims to be one of the earliest and most enduring of Majorites: "John brought me into the Conservative Party. I met him in Penstemon village hall in 1977. At his adoption meeting 18 months later, from among some 700 people he not only remembered me but recalled in which corner of which hall we met and what we talked about."

That's John Major for you.

Blazing saddle

ROSEMARY HENDERSON, the female jockey who made Grand National history last year when she came fifth in the steeplechase on Fiddlers Pike, is planning to remount the beast for another terrifying race. She is entering the Marlborough Cup on May 14, the first British race over hard wooden fences to be held on a purpose-built course just outside Marlborough.

The event is likely to draw Mr Frisk, the 1990 Grand National winner, out of his stable; John Francombe is threatening to come out of retirement; and Kim Bailey, who trained the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Master Oaks, is on the committee. But the real event of the weekend will be the Barbury Ball,



Henderson: history-maker

to raise money for the appeal for an adolescent cancer unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. The entire racing world will be letting its hair down courtesy of Wiltshire farmer Count Konrad Goess-Saurau, who is staging both events.

P.H.S

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REFLECT ON DIVORCE

Ending 'quickie' divorce will help parents and children

A year has now passed since the end of the consultation period for the Government's Green Paper on divorce law reform. It seems an age: indeed family policy organisations have been harrying the Lord Chancellor's Department for a response. Yet this is the same length of time that the Green Paper recommended for divorcing couples to reflect on their position. A year is a long time in a partnership, and is a suitable period for people to ponder whether they should part.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has now won Cabinet approval to publish a White Paper in the next few weeks which will scrap the "quickie" divorce procedure. Some Tory backbenchers will be worried that the new proposals will make divorce easier: at the moment, couples who separate have to prove that they have been apart for two years before they can be granted a divorce. But three-quarters of divorcing couples instead use the "fault" procedures, in which they cite unreasonable behaviour, adultery or desertion in order to win their divorce in just three to four months. Under Lord Mackay's reforms all would have to wait at least a year.

The costs of divorce are immense: not just in the sorrow experienced by parents and children at the time, but in its after-effects too. Children whose parents stay together are likely to be healthier psychologically and to perform better at school and in later life. And divorce often forces members of broken families into poverty and dependence on the State. Most politicians, in all parties, now agree that government policy should aim to prevent family breakdown where possible, and to protect the children from its fallout when it is unavoidable.

This is what Lord Mackay seeks to do. During the year-long pause for reflection, all couples would be offered the services of a mediator, with whom they could talk about

the state of their marriage. The hope is that some might change their minds about going through with divorce. Others will be encouraged to settle their disputes about money and children in as amicable a way as can be found.

The current divorce laws seem instead to be designed to encourage acrimony. In order to win a "fault-based" divorce, couples have to come to court with a list of grudges: the time she threw a plate across the kitchen; the affair he had with his colleague. Meanwhile, lawyers often persuade their clients to ask for the maximum amount of money that they can squeeze out of the other side. Even couples who start the process in a friendly way can end up hating each other. This is miserable for the partners concerned, but even worse for any children, whose unhappiness about the separation of their parents is compounded by the hostility that they discern between their mother and father.

Mediators can fulfil several useful functions. A fortunate few couples may, after talking through their problems, decide not to divorce after all. Others will at least have worked out the arrangements about money and children before they reach court, making an amicable solution more likely. And the resulting savings in legal aid for divorce cases (which amounted to £226.7 million last year alone) could be ploughed back into paying for mediation.

Government, apparently, is still not sure whether to go ahead with legislation on divorce law reform this side of a general election. The issue is said not to be a vote-winner. Yet almost everybody knows somebody whose life would be touched by such a reform. If a Bill can be supported by all sides of the House, that is surely a factor in its favour. Narrow considerations of partisan advantage should not be allowed to obstruct what is a humane and welcome measure.

THE STRENGTH OF SCIENCE

A week of inspiration should lift scientific horizons

The profession of science enjoyed a golden age after the Second World War, rich in success and well supplied with money. But in recent years the "feel-good" factor has proved as elusive for scientists as it has for the public at large. The public image of science has become, all too often, that of the mendicant holding out the bowl and displaying his scars. Science Week, which began last Friday and runs until the end of this week, presents a more amiable face to the world.

Across Britain thousands of lectures, laboratory visits, workshops and hands-on science events have been organised, mostly by local committees. The mood is, as it should be, celebratory, for science has much to celebrate. In a couple of centuries it has become the dominant method by which we seek to understand nature, the conduit to truths that are profound as well as profoundly useful.

Yet many of us who live within the cocoon of security provided by modern medicine and happily exploit the miracles of travel and communication that technology has provided remain disdainful of science and all its works. We unconsciously echo the sentiments of Flaubert, who declared that the four great misdeeds of modern civilisation were "railways, factories, chemists and mathematicians".

In countering these attitudes, scientists are not always their own best advocates. A narrow industrialism too often dictates their arguments, the favourite claim being that without a healthier attitude towards science, Britain will not be able to compete in the development of new products and will decline as an economic power.

Even though we can no longer afford to be

as open with the purse as once we were, there is no evidence that Britain's troubles result from training too few scientists or engineers. Uncertain career prospects, poor rates of pay, and the exodus of many research workers to other countries could be taken rather as evidence that we have trained too many.

What, then, is the purpose of a week designed to enthuse more children with science, and why is it welcome? British society, it has been claimed, has the outward acceptance of modernity without the inner conviction. To acquire that conviction does not necessitate all of us becoming physicists, chemists or engineers, but it does require a more general spread of what has been called "street-smart" science.

People should become comfortable with the ideas and methods of science, if they are properly to judge where the ethical lines should be drawn in genetic manipulation, or to make informed decisions on tricky environmental issues such as global warming. It is all too easy for experts to bluff: we need enough knowledge and confidence to call their bluff if we are to control our own technological future.

The scientific element in the national curriculum is an important element in the process, but on its own it is not enough. Science Week provides a more relaxed opportunity to penetrate behind the laboratory doors and to discover that scientists and engineers are human beings capable of explaining themselves in plain prose. The very diversity of the event is its strength, preventing it from being used to project an ideology or to grind an axe, unless it be that science is accessible, interesting, and should be part of everybody's cultural armoury.

THE SLEEPER'S FRIENDS AWAKE

It is too early to axe the Fort William service

A night sleeper takes everyone straight back to the golden age of railways: the hiss of steam heating, the cosy compartments, the rhythmic rocking interrupted by the clattering of points, the morning knock of the steward with tea and biscuits. Few can claim to wake refreshed after a night aboard; yet few who have boarded a grimy express at Euston or King's Cross and drawn up the blinds next morning on the snow-covered Highlands or the lochs near Fort William can ever forget the experience.

The romance and the nostalgia are almost over. Following the franchiser's decision not to insist on the continuation of the night sleeper to Fort William, British Rail has announced that the service, together with the Edinburgh and Glasgow sleepers to Penzance, will run for the last time in May.

The campaign to save the West Highland service is well under way. MPs, holiday-makers, anglers and tourism officials have bombarded BR and the press with petitions and denunciations. Hundreds of last-minute passengers are now filling the berths and swelling the line's takings. The London Friends of the West Highland Line have drawn up figures to challenge BR's claim that it costs the taxpayer £360 in subsidy to each passenger, excluding charges to Railtrack. Railways enthusiasts insist that the line has been badly marketed, and produce damning charges — all too believable in the light of earlier tactics by railway bureaucrats — that booking clerks discourage passengers in order to support

claims that the sleeper runs almost empty on most nights.

Enthusiasm alone may not be enough. Sleepers are the victim of new rail technology: Edinburgh can be reached, by day, in under four hours. The journey has to be spun out long enough in order to allow at least a semblance of sleep — and on only the longest stretches. Inverness, Fort William and Penzance hardly have the population to support a daily service except in the high tourist season. Britain is simply too small for the kind of transcontinental sleeper services of Russia or even continental Europe. Only when — or if — the promised overnight connections through the Channel Tunnel begin with sleeper travel again become viable.

This promise is one reason for keeping things as they are, at least until the campaigners have had a chance to reverse declining ridership. The loss of the Fort William service would affect much more than just the handful of regular passengers: the entire viability of the rural lines north of Glasgow would come under question. This is why Scotland is campaigning so hard. A marginal line, once axed, disappears for ever. When ScotRail becomes a private franchise, it may raise enough money to keep the line alive until services through the tunnel can swell the tourist numbers. Campaigners forced the reprieve of the Settle and Carlisle line; they now have less than six weeks to save the Fort William sleeper. They will have to work hard.

Corporate heads as 'role models'

From the Director General of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts

Sir, Tim Bell's defence of high salaries in business is convincingly argued, as his recent speech published in *The Times* on March 11 reveals (letters, March 16). He is right in saying that we are not having a serious debate.

The issue is not corporate greed, but corporate responsibility. Wealth generation is essential to our society; neither poor management nor crusading politicians must put it at risk. But the distribution of the wealth in creating a fair society is surely the point in question.

The news of Barings executives scrambling for their bonuses while their bank collapsed around them was bad for the City's image. But the far-sightedness of the Baring family in establishing the Baring Foundation was ignored in the rush to kick the directors while they were down. Ironically, it was Barings's corporate responsibility in establishing the foundation that exposed the directors to criticism when the funds were put in jeopardy.

The media and politicians are being given easy targets. Corporate executives should be role models in society — all work and lots of pay makes Jack appear not merely a dull, but also a greedy boy. Business people, whatever their workloads, should play an active part in their community, whether through supporting their regional theatre or being on the board of governors of their local school, for example. The sponsorship and donations budgets of companies should be available to public praise and public scrutiny.

The business executive as role model is in danger of extinction in the struggle for corporate survival. If business men and women do not serve as volunteers, sit on the boards of trustees, lead the fundraising campaigns and provide the sponsorship, our communities will be impoverished for more than a generation.

Tim Bell is right in saying that "company directors should be defending themselves and their company's achievements boldly". It would be good if out of all this bad publicity a serious debate could be had about the role of business in the wider world. Let the successful executives keep their hard-earned salaries, but let them and us examine their roles as leaders in the community.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN TWEEDY,
Director General,
Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts,
Nutmeg House, 60 Gainsford Street,
Bulmers Wharf, SE1,
March 15.

Bulk carrier losses

From Mr M. B. F. Ranken

Sir, Everyone should be delighted that Lord Donaldson has been asked to assess what further work would be needed to learn more about the causes of the loss of the bulk carrier *Derbyshire*, what benefit to ship safety generally there might be, and what would be the work cost (report and article, March 7).

However, even if Lord Donaldson recommends such action, the Government may still not sanction the full seabed survey of the wreck that many already consider necessary, indeed essential, in the light of the continuing high casualty rates with bulkers. These presently run at one a month: half of them involve deaths (now averaging 133 per year) and some still disappear without trace. There is no sign of improvement as these ships grow older.

Stricken cargo ships and their crews are still treated as statistics, especially when far from land and home or flying another country's flag, in contrast to passenger ship losses and crashed aircraft.

Fifty per cent more crew members have been lost in bulk carriers in the past 24 years than the 1,502 men, women and children drowned in the *Titanic*. The whole maritime community, governments and the International Maritime Organisation are culpable, so long as they allow this carnage to continue.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RANKEN,
44 Castelnau Mansions,
Castelnau, Barnes SW13,
March 10.

Handel vs Hendrix

From Mr James Doherty

Sir, As a composer and teacher of composition, I find the attitude of the Handel House Trust to the proposition of a plaque dedicated to Jimi Hendrix at 23 Brook Street, Mayfair (report, March 16), somewhat regrettable.

The cultural life of the nation (and indeed the life and works of Handel) would surely be better served by a conservation not only of bricks and mortar but also of the climate of openness and discerning good taste which, one can assume, drew both of these distinguished expatriates to London in the first place and that we all rely on to attract their successors.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DOHERTY,
Royal Academy of Music,
Marylebone Road, NW1,
March 17.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Life and death decisions in NHS treatment of children

From Mrs C. Paxton

Sir, In 1982 our eight-week-old baby son was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia (letters, March 14). The prognosis was hopeless ("no known survivors"). The most well-known children's hospital in this country thought it not worthwhile to attempt treatment and he was given eight weeks to live.

Our regional centre for paediatric oncology had the vision and courage to try some treatment for this youngest-ever AML sufferer. What was later described as "outlandish" chemotherapy brought about a two-year remission. When relapse occurred, the situation appeared unsalvageable, but with much support and close attention to our son's ability to withstand the immense rigours of the drug regimes, extremely expensive, "state of the art" chemotherapy and cranial and spinal radiotherapy were given.

Ten years later our son is a healthy teenager, growing normally, doing well at school, and with a calm and optimistic personality which belies his early suffering.

His treatment pushed back the frontiers of knowledge about this awful disease and furthered research which has helped other young patients.

Yours sincerely,
JILL PAXTON,
Coppinhill,
23 Church Lane,
Old Sodbury, Bristol, Avon,
March 11.

From Dr Anthony Hopkins

Sir, The case of the little girl B has revealed the absence of a defined system, with accountability, for allocating resources for the care of individual patients.

As you reported on March 11, some participants are coming forward claiming that they have the right to decide: these include the patient (in this case B's father) and the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission ("it is our responsibility to allocate resources") and "in difficult cases Dr Zimmern [the commission's director of health policy] makes the final decision".

Other potential participants do not wish to be involved. The Court of Appeal has ruled that it was "misguided to involve the court in a field of activity where it is not fitted to make any decision favourable to the patient". The Secretary of State for Health has stated that "decisions about treatment must be left to doctors". She is right.

Clinicians may need to act as advocates for their patients, pressing for resources from the managers of NHS trusts (their employers) and from health authorities. Patients and their doctors are partners in care, in a relationship based on trust, a trust which takes into account the proven effectiveness of treatment and the costs to society of an individual's treatment in terms of other opportunities lost.

The only alternative to such trust is

a bureaucratic mechanism for approval of treatment, necessarily with an appeals procedure. Is this what we want?

Yours etc,
ANTHONY HOPKINS,
149 Harley Street, W1,
March 15.

From Mr David Keast

Sir, The leukaemia treatment case forces us to confront some sobering truths. It is too simplistic to present this as an issue of funding. Cash only serves to disguise the unwelcome reality that there must be a balance between individual life expectancy and demands on the rest of the community to provide for it.

In most areas of collective responsibility there is fairly open debate on the scale and use of resources; should we repair the high street or should we build the new village hall? Do we need more tanks or more planes? Yet there is very little public debate of the relative value of different medical treatments.

Most people without medical training feel unwilling to make such judgments and are content to defer to the medical profession. This is an issue for all of society: it is too important to leave to the experts.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEAST,
31 Lower Street,
Pulborough, West Sussex,
March 15.

War widows' thanks

From the President and the Vice-Presidents of the War Widows Association of Great Britain

Sir, On behalf of all the members of the War Widows Association of Great Britain we would like publicly to thank Lord Freyberg for moving the amendment on pension restoration to war widows after the end of a second marriage either through death or divorce (reports, March 15, 16). We should also like to thank Lord Peyton of Yeovil, Lady Seear, Lord Brookes, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord Ennals, Lady Hollis of Heigham, Lady Park of Monmouth, Lord Chalfont and Lord Wolfson, who all spoke so movingly, and all the many other noble lords who supported us.

The figure of 48,000 affected by the measure includes all those whose spouses were killed by enemy action while on duty, including firemen and ARP wardens.

We very much hope that this amendment will receive the same splendid support in its next stage, in the Commons.

Yours,
STRANGE
(President, War Widows Association),
NICOL,
O'CATHAÏN
(Vice-Presidents),
House of Lords,
March 16.

From Group Captain Peter Drury Bird, RAF (retd)

Sir, With many others, I imagine, I was delighted to read about the young Lord Freyberg's gallant stance on the plight of war widows' pensions. Good for him. We Second World War survivors desperately need the understanding and concern of the new generation. It follows that Lord Freyberg and

others should, in addition, be aware of yet another facet of potential and actual suffering of war widows.

I flew Lancasters in Bomber Command in the war; my wife endured that experience. If I die first she will receive one third of my service pension. Widows of officers of my rank too young to have served in the Second World War will, however, receive one half of their husband's retired pay.

For more than ten years I have been forced to contribute from my own pocket more than £100 per month in private insurance to make up the difference (if needs be).

Yours etc,
PETER D. BIRD,
Coach House, Chirk Lodge,
Winchester Hill,
Romsey, Hampshire,
March 16.

From Mrs Camilla Westwood

Sir, In this year, when we commemorate the end of the Second World War, the Government has an appropriate opportunity to correct a great injustice done to servicemen who became prisoners of our European enemies. Those returning from the camps were repaid only half their pay covering the time of their imprisonment on the ground that they had been paid by their captors in token currency. There was of course nothing to buy with it and it was worthless.

Other nationalities and British prisoners in other theatres were repaid in full.

Before the Government spends millions on commemorations it should first right this wrong to the men or their spouses.

Yours faithfully,
CAMILLA WESTWOOD,
19 Rainville Road, W6,
March 16.

Academic titles

From Professor Antony W. Dnes

Sir, The debate at Oxford over the creation of professorial titles (reports, March 13, 14 and later editions March 18) is indicative of a wider problem for UK universities. Most of our academics are made to look somewhat junior abroad because we eschew the professorial title until we reach the equivalent of US full professor. The problem is the title of lecturer — which is used here for a career grade but in the USA usually designates a temporary and unqualified assistant.

I propose that we adopt the US system, since it is now the dominant academic presence, as have other European countries like The Netherlands. The grades should be (using traditional and not new-university grades): assistant professor (lecturer); associate professor (senior lecturer); full professor (reader and above). The current distinction attached to a UK professorship could be maintained by awarding a titled chair.

I fear this move will not be acceptable to UK (full) professors who will wish to preserve the exclusivity of our title. A similar debate in Australia ran aground on just this point.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY W. DNES,
Nottingham Trent University,
Department of Economics,
Burton Street, Nottingham.

Familiar tactics

From Mr Mark Mason

Sir, I fail to understand the controversy about using public money to buy votes (report, March 16). Surely that is what every general election in this country has been about for at least the past fifty years?

Yours faithfully,
MARK MASON,
31 Batlebridge Court, NI,
March 17.

Judges' accountability

From the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir, Sir Michael Ogden (letter, March 11) should not fear the judicial complaints procedure proposed in the new Labour Party consultation paper. Accountability is not inconsistent with independence. England does not have independence of the judiciary in the American sense, with the Bench an independent branch of government. In England the concept of independence is, probably best thought of, constitutionally, as independence of individual judges from outside influence.

It should also be remembered that courts perform two very difficult functions: a constitutional one in which the maximum independence of the judges from legislature and executive is desirable, and a social-service function, in which judicial accountability is scarcely inappropriate. A well constructed commission to investigate a range of judicial failings — from discourtesy (to litigants or counsel) to administrative ineptitude — would be eminently desirable.

Such bodies have proven their value in Scandinavian countries, with their judicial ombudsmen, who have helped make their courts more "user friendly". Nor should it be forgotten that the Italian judiciary has charted a courageous independent political course despite modest judicial salaries and the supervision, in non-legal matters, of the *Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura*.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT STEVENS (Chairman,
Justice Committee on the Judiciary),
Pembroke College, Oxford,
March 16.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Child poverty

From Mrs Emma Knighs

Sir, You report (later editions, March 17) that the number of separated couples colluding to defraud the Child Support Agency stood at 16,088 in the ten months to January this year, compared with 627 in the whole of the financial year 1993-94. In fact these figures relate to something very different: they are the number of parents caring for children who are having their benefit reduced for not co-operating with the CSA.

The rise in the figures can be explained by the fact that the procedure for deciding whether a parent has good cause for not co-operating can take months, and that the notorious backlog of cases at the CSA is working its way through the system.

Parents on benefit who refuse to apply for child maintenance risk losing £9.30 a week for six months, followed by a loss of £4.65 a week for the next year. Fraud is only an issue if the absent parent then makes maintenance payments which are not declared to the benefits agency: the DSS has no evidence as to how many of the benefit penalty cases this involves. Many children are living well below the poverty line because their parent has been forced to make the invidious choice that it is not in their best interests to apply to the CSA. Women on income support who do apply find that every £1 of maintenance received results in a £1 reduction in their benefit.

On March 20 Parliament debates the package announced in the White Paper, *Improving Child Support*, which includes practically nothing for parents and children living in poverty. The child support scheme should ensure that the poorest families are allowed to keep a small amount of any child maintenance payment.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA KNIGHTS,
Child Poverty Action Group,
1-5 Bath Street, EC1,
March 17.

Distant encounters

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, The Green Party's new politically correct hug, with its menacing intrusion into "personal body space" (report March 6; letters, March 8), was anticipated by the Church almost half a century ago.

The words of St Paul rendered in the Revised Version as "Greet ye one another with an holy kiss" (I Corinthians xvi, 20) are replaced in J. B. Phillips's 1947 translation of the New Testament as "I should like you to shake hands all round as a sign of Christian love".

Clearly he had in mind the added advantage that no one would feel excluded.

Yours correctly,
JULIAN SULLIVAN,
St Mary's Vicarage,
42 Charlotte Road, Sheffield 1,
March 8.

Words perfect

From Mr Richard Thomas

Sir, You are right (leading article, March 16) to support the Law Commission's call for clarity and simplicity in criminal legislation. It can be done. What message to the potential horse thief could be clearer or simpler than Section 1 of the Docking and Nicking of Horses Act 1949 — "the ... nicking of horses is prohibited"?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD THOMAS
(Director,
Public Policy Group),
Clifford Chance,
200 Aldersgate Street, EC1,
March 17.

OBITUARIES

HOJATOLESLAM AHMAD KHOMEINI

Hojatolislam Ahmad Khomeini, the surviving son of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, died in Tehran of a heart attack on March 17 aged 50. He was born on March 15, 1945.

AHMAD KHOMEINI was one of the most influential figures in Iran over the past 16 years, venerated as the tangible living symbol of the revolutionary spirit of his father, the Ayatollah Khomeini. During the first decade of the new regime, before his father died in 1989, he acted as the latter's spokesman and chief intermediary with the outside world. He often determined who, among the top officials of the State, would be received by the ayatollah, and he sometimes appeared to commit his father to policies he had not fully pondered. Later, he became the unofficial custodian of the ayatollah's radical legacy and held sway over whatever popular base the State still possessed.

Though he held few official positions, a number of Cabinet ministers were regarded as his nominees. Yet he was perceived by most acquaintances as intellectually inadequate and educationally limited. His indulgence in late-night opium parties at his father's official residence in north Tehran embarrassed the austere patriarch.

He was born in the shrine city of Qom, some 90 miles to the south of Tehran, in exiling times for the clergy. Though Iran remained under the occupation of British and Soviet forces, the monarch, Reza Shah, had been deposed and exiled to South Africa four years earlier for his pro-German leanings and his decrees banning the appearance of veiled women on the streets had fallen into abeyance. At the same time, newly-legalised political parties of all kinds sought to attract the allegiance of the young. Most asserted that Islam was incompatible with democracy and modernity.

Ahmad Khomeini's father was at that time earning a living by reciting prayers for illiterate pilgrims or receiving stipends from some "grand ayatollahs", of whom there are usually fewer than a dozen in the world of Shia Islam. Evidence now exists that he was also beginning to associate with the



Islamic terrorist organisation, the Fedaiyan (sacrificers) of Islam, which would later assassinate a long list of politicians and intellectuals. Khomeini senior harboured a special hatred for the royal house of the Pahlavis on account of Reza Shah's persecution of the clergy.

While Ahmad was at a secondary school in Qom in 1963, his father was

arrested for leading fundamentalist riots in a number of large cities against a referendum to enfranchise women and to grant agricultural land, including farms administered by the clergy for shrines and religious foundations, to landless peasants. Hundreds of rioters were reportedly killed by the army and Khomeini was exiled to Turkey after the intercession of other

senior clerics. From there he went to Iraq two years later, where he remained until the end of 1978.

Ahmad was not taken aback by his father and his education seems to have been interrupted. Some members of the family moved from Qom to Tehran and Ahmad was selected for one of the capital's better-known football teams, the Shahin, for several years.

In 1977 his elder brother, Mustafa, was killed in a car crash in Iraq and it fell to Ahmad to become his father's new office manager in the shrine city of Najaf. A year later, when social turmoil was inducing panic in the ailing Shah, Muhammad Reza, President Saddam Hussein expelled Khomeini at the request of the Iranian monarch and he and his family fled to Paris where they found it much easier to communicate with Muslim militants at home.

After their triumphant return to Iran in February 1979, Ahmad was a party to the most sensitive deliberations of the new Islamic State. These included Khomeini's decision, against his previous promises, to take over the formal leadership of the country; his declaration of support for the takeover of the United States Embassy by extremist students; the choice — and the toppling — of Abolhasan Bani-Sadr as the country's first president; the secret arms-for-hostages negotiations with the Reagan Administration; the designation, in 1989, of the dismissal of Ayatollah Montazeri as Khomeini's successor; and the ending of the eight-year war with Iraq in 1988.

On Khomeini's death in June 1989 Ahmad hoped to be chosen as his father's successor, or at least as a member of a small leadership committee. But he was shunned by the Assembly of Experts for his low clerical attainments. Nevertheless, the new leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, felt it necessary to consult him on important decisions and appointed him as his personal representative on the National Security Council. He had free access to the media and could bring about the fall of Cabinet ministers by publicly criticising them. He chose, however, to confine his statements to general condemnations of greed and corruption within the new ruling class.

Ahmad Khomeini is survived by a wife and three sons.

SIR JOHN HANBURY

Sir John Hanbury, CBE, former chairman of the pharmaceutical company Allen and Hanbury, died on March 1 aged 86. He was born on May 26, 1908.



JOHN HANBURY helped to pioneer the mass production of penicillin in response to urgent government demands during the Second World War. As technical director and vice-chairman of the family firm, he saw Britain's pharmaceutical industry double its workforce in ten years to 44,000 by 1947, with an export business second only to that of the United States.

Allen and Hanbury had previously looked upon dried milk for babies, together with malted foods, fruit pastilles and cod liver oil products, as the mainstay of its business. John Hanbury was responsible, however, for the rapid expansion of its chemical research which led it into more exciting areas of activity.

These included the early marketing of insulin, the production of penicillin lozenges — which sold by the million — and also penicillin vials for giving injections.

The firm stopped making infant foods altogether in 1953, five years before Hanbury (by then its chairman) led it into a successful merger with the Glaxo group. It then started to specialise increasingly in developing drugs for respiratory conditions and by the mid-1980s had become a market leader in the field.

John Capel Hanbury had started out as a laboratory technician, albeit one with greater than usual expectations. Born in Enfield, Middlesex — although he was to live most of his life in neighbouring Hertfordshire — he was to inherit a firm founded in 1875.

The Hanburys had originally been Quakers — and connected to the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry — until John's grandparents had switched to the Church of England. His own parents went one step further by converting to

Roman Catholicism, and sent their young son to Downside. At the same time they said he was free to choose for himself and it was not until the age of 16 that he finally committed himself to Rome. Having done so, he remained a devoted Catholic throughout his life, working closely with Cardinal Basil Hume on a number of projects.

From Downside he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, to read classics before changing to natural sciences. Then, after graduating there, he moved to the School of Pharmacy in London where he took a second degree. He joined the family firm in 1932.

His work, particularly that with penicillin, constituted a reserved occupation in the war. But he joined the Home Guard as a corporal, eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant; he retained happy memories of guarding nearby Hunsdon Aerodrome. He went on to the Allen and Hanbury board in 1944, became chairman in 1953 and held the post for 20 years before retiring at the age of 65.

He played a leading role in the drugs industry. At one time or another he dutifully served as a member of the Pharmacopoeia Commission, chairman of the Central Health Services Council and of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers; he was also president of the Association of the British

Pharmaceutical Industry and of the Franco-British Pharmaceutical Commission. His continuing association with (and support for) the School of Pharmacy found its appropriate memorial in the school's new John Hanbury Lecture Theatre. He was appointed CBE in 1969 and knighted in 1974.

His speeches were occasionally reported in the national press, particularly those in which he expressed concern over the impact of the thalidomide scare and similar disasters on drugs research. In this area he was quite capable of being controversial. "Over and over again there have been examples of drugs of the utmost value, penicillin included, which have brought life and health to 999 in every 1,000 people but serious problems for the one. Those who say that nothing but complete safety will do are crying for the moon", he once roundly declared.

He was also a member of the Thames Water Authority, 1974-79, which reflected his passion for conservation and cleaner rivers. He took particular pride in the return of salmon to the Thames during his tenure.

A tall, upright, gentle man with no pretensions, John Hanbury inherited his family's love of horticulture. He helped to restore the famous Hanbury gardens (founded by a cousin) in northern Italy and was a knowledgeable president of his local horticultural society at Ware. He was also president for nearly thirty years of the East Hertfordshire Archaeological Society, an appointment which reflected his other main recreational interest.

John Hanbury's first wife, Joan, died six years ago and he is survived by his second wife, Rosemary, and by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage. A third son died at the age of four in an accident during the war when he fell through an upstairs window while leaning out to watch a troop of tanks drive past.

CAPTAIN RICHARD WHITE

Captain Richard White, DSO and two Bars, wartime destroyer commander, died on March 3 aged 87. He was born on January 29, 1908.

DICK WHITE commanded destroyers continuously throughout the Second World War and also off Korea in the 1950s. Besides being awarded three DSOs he was also three times mentioned in despatches.

At the outbreak of war he was in command of the destroyer *Antelope* and was soon engaged in convoy escort duty. On February 5, 1940, *Antelope* was the sole escort available to protect the outward-bound convoy O884 when it was attacked south of Ireland by the German submarine U41. Two ships were torpedoed, but *Antelope* counter-attacked single-handedly and sank the convoy's assailant. This was a rare success in this early phase of the Battle of the Atlantic and White was awarded his first DSO.

The award of his second DSO followed the sinking, in combination with shore-based aircraft, of U31 during its attack on the transatlantic convoy OB237 in November 1940. U31 had the distinction of being the only submarine ever to be sunk twice.

In March 1940 RAF Bomber Command had scored its first success of the anti-submarine campaign when it sent her to the bottom in a shallow part of the Schillig Roads. But the Germans had been able quickly to salvage her and get her back into service. There was to be no such escape from *Antelope* and the RAF's coup de grace of November.

In 1941 White was given command of the destroyer *Beagle* and the 4th Escort Group based at Greenock, on the Clyde. The group escorted unscathed a number of con-

voys to the mid-Atlantic hand-over point to the US Navy, which, at that time before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor made it a formal combatant, was waging war against the Axis on Britain's side in all but name.

In 1942, in command of the destroyer *Zulu*, he was mentioned in despatches after *Zulu* had helped the destroyers *Sikh*, *Croome* and *Tetcoit* to sink U372 in the eastern Mediterranean.

Zulu's final action was Operation Agreement in September 1942. This was an assault on Tobruk, originally planned after an urgent request by Auchinleck for some amphibious action to threaten Rommel's supply lines and ease the severe pressure on the Eighth Army. But by the time it took place Rommel had already been halted at Alam Halfa. Alexander had superseded Auchinleck as C-in-C Middle East and Montgomery was newly installed as commander of the Eighth Army. In short, the peril to the Eighth Army which alone would have justified a desperate gamble like Operation Agreement was long since past.

The assault called for 150 soldiers embarked in a score of MTBs and motor launches to land and knock out gun emplacements. Meanwhile, *Zulu* and *Sikh* were to assault the harbour with 350 Royal Marines and sink shipping and wreck installations. Simultaneously, the Long Range Desert Group would carry out a co-ordinated attack from the landward side.

Disaster ensued. A heavy air raid by the RAF did nothing to suppress Tobruk's formidable defences. Only two of the 21 MTBs and MLs got their troops ashore and the destroyers never returned after trying to land the first wave of marines. When, at first light, *Sikh* moved inshore to try to



find the assault craft she was crippled by gunfire from the shore. White twice tried to tow *Sikh* out of danger to seaward, but accurate fire-scoring repeated hits on both ships, made this impossible and Captain Micklethwaite of the *Sikh* ordered him to get clear. *Sikh* sank close inshore, many of her crew and the marines being made prisoners.

However painful, it was clearly the right decision on Micklethwaite's part to order

Zulu to withdraw out of danger. That evening, however, the Luftwaffe, now thoroughly alerted, made further attacks on the anti-aircraft cruiser *Conventry* and her escorts, which had been sent close inshore to support *Zulu*. *Conventry* was bombed, caught fire and was abandoned. Finally, hit by the last bomb of the last attack of the day, *Zulu* herself was badly damaged and eventually sank while under tow. For his gallantry and skill White was awarded

the second bar to his DSO.

On D-Day White was second-in-command of the cruiser *Despatch*, providing gunfire support for the assault troops. His final wartime command was the new destroyer *Terpsichore* which took part in actions against the Japanese in 1944 and was present at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay in September 1945.

After the war he was briefly second-in-command of the battleship *King George V* in the Far East. This was not a happy commission; there were serious disciplinary problems and a near-mutiny among sailors who were due for demobilisation.

Richard Taylor White was the second son of Sir Archibald White, 4th Bt. He entered Dartmouth in 1921 and before the war served in the Middle East and Caribbean.

In 1950 he went out to Korea in command of the destroyer *Cossack* and the 8th destroyer squadron. *Cossack* was active in naval operations up the west coast of the Korean peninsula and in providing bombardment support to land forces. White was captain of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, from 1951 to 1953. His final seagoing appointment was in command of the light fleet carrier *Glory* in the Mediterranean.

White was unlucky not to gain promotion to flag rank; but he had arrived as a senior captain in a climate of drastic defence cuts and, like many good officers, was denied further advancement. He retired in 1955 with a reputation as a seaman, a commander of men, a charming, straightforward and modest, he inspired devotion and trust.

His second career in industry was with Venturia air conditioning and in the motor trade with Sidney Caffyn until 1970. He is survived by his wife Ursula and their three sons and two daughters.

CAREL BIRNIE

Carel Birnie, co-founder and former director of Netherlands Dance Theatre, died from a heart condition in The Hague on March 10 aged 69. He was born on April 20, 1925.



CAREL BIRNIE's involvement in dance began accidentally, but once installed he achieved as much for the art as anyone of his time, helping to found one of the world's most admired companies, the Netherlands Dance Theatre. He made it succeed through all adversity over more than three decades and left it with a unique asset, its own purpose-built theatre.

The son of a doctor in the small Dutch town of Vlaardingen, Birnie set out to follow the same profession, but gave up medicine and in his mid-twenties took charge of an opera company in Utrecht, running it successfully for three years without a subsidy. That was where he developed the flair, financial acumen, patience and tenacity needed for his life's work.

Eventually the opera company had to close, and Birnie was invited as business manager to a small ballet company — one of several from which grew the Dutch National Ballet. But the unbusinesslike ways of the director, Sonja Gaskell, so infuriated him that he decided to leave for other work. Finding, however, that several of the best dancers and the new ballet master Benjamin Harkavy felt the same way, Birnie agreed to throw in his lot with them in forming their own company. Thus was born, in 1959, the Netherlands Dance Theatre.

With Harkavy and the young Dutch choreographer

Hans van Manen as its first artistic directors, NDT adopted a policy — which has lasted ever since — of constant creative renewal of the repertoire (an amazing average of one new work every month). Many other companies soon took it as a model, including Ballet Rambert for its 1966 relaunch, and even the Royal Ballet with its short-lived New Group in the early 1970s.

To make this productivity possible, Birnie found NDT a home (studios, workshops, offices — even a choreographer's rest room) in a disused school in The Hague, from which they travelled by bus to theatres all over The Netherlands. He rapidly secured overseas engagements too; their first in Britain was at Sunderland, and they were for a decade frequent regular visitors to Sadler's Wells until they outgrew its stage. Acclamation abroad also helped to overcome early lack of acceptance at home.

For two years in the 1970s Birnie himself took over the artistic direction: it was a rumbustious interregnum with creations by the Ameri-

can choreographers Louis Falco and Jennifer Muller. Then in 1975 he took a daring and successful gamble on the ability of the young Czech choreographer Jiri Kylian, under whose directorship the company has gone from strength to strength ever since.

Birnie now devoted his energies to providing NDT with its own theatre. By hoarding the income from foreign tours, and securing both sponsorship and municipal support, he managed in 1987 to have Queen Beatrix open the world's first purpose-built dance theatre — the Danshuis — in The Hague, with Rem Koolhaas as architect (the first of his admired projects ever to reach completion). There were no frills but every desirable backstage facility, ideal rehearsal and performance conditions, and an excellent view from the thousand and one seats in a surprisingly intimate auditorium.

Birnie's pride in this was touching and entirely justified. He remained director of the theatre until last year, although declining health made him retire from managing NDT in 1991. Even then he took on a new commitment, returning to his first love to work towards a new opera house as a neighbour of the Danshuis.

Quietly spoken, gentle and humorous, Birnie used tact, ingenuity and persistence to achieve his objectives. His work was recognised by Queen Beatrix in 1993 with the Royal Medal of Initiative and Ingenuity. Birnie bore cheerfully protracted treatment for a heart condition and died quietly in his own home. He is survived by his wife and four sons.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Brianwell Bearcroft, previously NSM, Keynton and Bythorn (Ely), to be Curate (NSM), Gary Deacons (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Richard Bowtell, Curate, St Margaret, King's Lynn, to be Vicar, Wotton, Cambridgeshire and Orington (Norwich).
The Rev Alan Brown, Vicar, St John, Newport and Rural Dean of West Wight (Portsmouth), to be also an Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral.
The Rev Christine Browne, Assistant Curate, St Mary, Bulwell, to be Team Vicar, Hucknall Team Ministry with particular responsibility for St Peter the Apostle (Southwell).
The Rev David Cawley, Vicar, Eastville (Bristol), to be Vicar, St Mary de Castro, Leicester (Leicester).
The Rev Ian Challis, permission to be officiate, diocese Salisbury, to be Vicar, St Paul, Hucknall (Southwell).
The Rev Brian Craddock, Priest-in-charge, Bury and Houghton (Chichester), to be Chaplain, Mojacar, Spain (Europe).
The Rev Canon Philip Crowe, for-

merly Principal, Salisbury and Wells Theological College (Salisbury), to resign his prebendal stall at Salisbury Cathedral, and to be Team Rector, Overton and Erbsnoek and Penley (Chester) (Salisbury).
The Rev Wendy Dudley, Assistant Curate, Saints Philip and James, Hodge Hill, to be Team Vicar, Saints Philip and James, Hodge Hill (Birmingham).
The Rev Christopher Engelsen, Team Vicar, Seacroft (Ripon), to be Priest-in-charge, Foulsham, Hindolveston and Gwestwick (Norwich).
The Rev John Fairbairn, Curate-in-charge, St Peter, Edwinstowe (London), to be Rector, St Peter w St Benedict, Ganton (Norwich).
The Rev Anthony Footitt, Archdeacon of Lynn, now also Priest-in-charge, Codley Cley w Goodstone: Great Cressingham (LEP), Little Cressingham w Thetford: Diddington: Hithorpe w Bodney: Oxenburgh w Foulton (Norwich).
The Rev Robin Gamble, Vicar, St Augustine's, Bradford, and Adviser in Evangelism (part-time), diocese Bradford, to be Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism (full-time), same diocese.

The Rev David Grundy, Curate, St Mark and St Martin, Kensal Rise (London), to be Vicar, Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe and Fring (Norwich).
The Rev Jimmy Hamilton-Brown, retired, now Priest-in-charge (half time), Tarrant Valley (Salisbury).
The Rev Leslie Harman, Team Vicar, St Marks, Hithorn, to be Vicar, Roydon (St Albans).
The Rev Nigel Harley, Priest-in-charge, Huddersham w Chatham and Radin Officer (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) to be Priest-in-charge, Great Fintborough w Onehouse, Harleston, Bushall and Sheldall, same diocese.
The Rev Michael Johnson, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Edmund and St Mark, Wootton, Isle of Wight, to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Ryde w St Michael and All Angels, Swanmore, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth).
The Rev Brian Leavelly, Rector, Hetherston w Caneloff (LEP), and Great and Little Melton, and Rural Dean of Humbleyard, to be Priest-in-charge, Southwight, Dilham, Honington and Crosswight (Norwich).
The Rev Anne Lovegrove, Assistant

Curate, Thorley, to be Vicar, St Oswald, Croydon Green (St Albans).
The Rev Philip McAvoy, Curate, St James, West End (Wiltshire), to be Team Vicar, Swanage and heresford Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Andrew Marlow, Diocesan Schools Officer, and Vicar, St Peter, Warrfield, diocese Wakefield, to be Director of Education, diocese of York.
The Rev Rodney Middleton, Vicar, St Luke, West Derby, to be Team Vicar, All Saints, Sutton (Liverpool).
The Rev Andrew Perry, Curate, All Saints, Bath Weston w St Martin's, North Stoke (Bath and Wells); to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary's, Longfleet (Salisbury).
The Rev George Royle, Vicar, St Peter, Hayling and St Mary, Hayling w the Conventual District of St Andrew, Hayling Island (Portsmouth) to be also an Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral.

GÖRING'S TALKS ON EVE OF WAR
SWEDE'S EVIDENCE AT NUREMBERG

From Our Special Correspondent

NUREMBERG, March 19
The dispassionate dignity of the Nuremberg court prosecutor for the United States, interrupted his cross-examination of Göring to appeal to the Tribunal that the prisoner's answers were unresponsive and a virtual waste of time. "This man," he protested, "is adopting in the dock and the stand an arrogant and contemptuous attitude towards a tribunal which is giving him a trial which he never gave a living soul...."

The Swedish industrialist Birger Dahlerus, chief witness in Göring's defence, had been called by Göring to testify to the part he had played as an intermediary between London and Berlin before the war, but it can only be concluded that neither the prisoner nor his counsel has read the witness's book called "The Last Attempt". Sir David Maxwell Fyfe had to do little more than take the witness over some of the passages of his book.

ON THIS DAY
March 20 1946

Among those tried for crimes against peace and humanity at Nuremberg in 1946-47 were 24 Nazi leaders. Ten were hanged, a fate evaded by Göring, who committed suicide.

"You agree," asked counsel, referring to Mr. Dahlerus's interviews on the eve of war, "that the Chancellor was abnormal, the Reich Marshal was in a state of crazy intoxication, and that, according to Göring, the Foreign Minister was a would-be murderer who wanted to sabotage your aircraft?" Witness firmly answered "Yes".

Inquiring into the state of mind of the German rulers at the time, counsel gained confirmation of the witness's narrative. Hitler at one of his meetings with Mr. Dahlerus had suddenly shouted: "If there should be war I will build U-boats, U-boats, U-boats by the

thousand." His voice became more and more indignant, and then he had shrieked: "Aero-planes, aeroplanes by the thousand." He seemed more like a phantom from a story-book than a real person, recorded Mr. Dahlerus, but Göring did not turn a hair. From the beginning of the conversation, he had resented Hitler's attitude towards Göring, his most intimate friend and comrade from the years of struggle. The obsequious humility expected of him seemed repellent to Mr. Dahlerus, who realized that the man he was dealing with was not normal.

He had gained the impression that Ribbentrop was doing everything he could to wreck his endeavours for peace, and he described how Göring's solemn manner had surprised him before his last flight to London.

Later on Göring had led him to believe that Ribbentrop had tried to arrange for his aeroplane to crash. At this statement Ribbentrop, in the dock, tore his earphones off, threw his hands in the air in protest, and leaning across Hess, engaged Göring in excited conversation. It was the most animated moment the Nuremberg trial has known. Later on Göring, in re-examination, dismissed the account as ridiculous, stating that Mr. Dahlerus was flying to London in the prisoner's own aircraft at the time.

GOLF

RUGBY UNION

FOOTBALL

SCHOOLS SPORT



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Tee up with the masters and win £25,000



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Counting time with the merry women of England



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United toppled in Anfield passion play



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Playing for glory in year of the Dragon

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 20 1995



Supporters acclaim Rob Andrew, whose seven penalty goals and dropped goal gave England a 24-12 victory over Scotland and broke the country's individual scoring record. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Five nations' decider brings mixed emotions to victors England feed grand ambition

ENGLAND'S third grand slam triumph in five years is a tremendous achievement and the scenes at Twickenham at the end of a victory over Scotland which also brought us the triple crown and the Calcutta Cup will be among my fondest sporting memories, but afterwards there was a change of mood, a feeling of frustration.

There were three major reasons for this. We were at the end of a week which I believe may prove to be a watershed for rugby. There was an awful lot of hype and tension around on Saturday, too much, I hope what happened in the days leading up to the game were not a sign of things to come because I did

not like what I saw and read. The hype was far too great, the worst I had experienced.

It was unnecessary and I particularly do not like the idea of people saying and writing things that stir up feelings, especially among the crowd. People underestimate the amount of pressure the players are put under and that was compounded by the comments made by certain ex-players, especially north of the border, and certain commentators.

Ex-players have to accept more responsibility for protecting the image of the game and the media must be more responsible too. By contrast, I thought the way Gavin Hastings and Will Carling con-

Rob Andrew on the grand finale that brought unexpected frustrations

ducted themselves before and after the match was exemplary, just what we should be able to expect.

Perhaps all this is a manifestation of the growing commercialism of the game. It is what we are heading for unless we put the brakes on to a certain degree.

One of the other things that created the sense of feeling flat was that the trophies were not presented after the match as the public so clearly wanted. Some way should have been found to provide this. It would have given a point of focus to

our celebrations at Twickenham. As it was, everyone left the ground feeling slightly unfulfilled.

The other reason was the way the game itself had been played. This was a big let-down and we felt Scotland certainly went out of their way to kill the game and kill our ball. That tactic drags both sides down and it was not what we set out to do but once we found the Scots doing it — and apparently being allowed to get away with it — we did the same. Consequently the spectacle was ruined for those

at Twickenham and those watching on television.

By Saturday night we were just glad that all the words were finished with and we had done the job. We were exhausted mentally more than physically. We were glad we had overcome the fear of losing the whole shooting match in our own backyard. We would have found it very difficult to cope with that.

But we did win. We did not allow Scotland to knock us off our game and we should be pleased we created the positions from which I was able to kick the penalties. That is all you can do, take advantage of the punishment the referee has meted out to your opponents.

Of course, I was delighted that I kicked so consistently but I was nervous beforehand and it was the hours of practice I had put in that helped me to rediscover the groove that had proved so successful against Canada and Romania before Christmas.

This championship has shown that the authorities are going to have to take a very strict line on the question of the handling of offside by referees at the World Cup. Referees were very strict at the 1991 World Cup on diving on the ball and it is going to be crucial that this time they crack down on those infringing offside. Otherwise the tournament this summer could turn into nothing much better than a scrap.

We had problems in Cardiff on this score and it happened again on Saturday. It reduces the spectacle at a time when sides are generally trying to play a more enterprising attacking game.

For the England team as a whole, it may be a good thing that we go to the World Cup under no illusions that we are already world-beaters. The five nations' championship brings such pressure.

We look forward to getting away to South Africa, being alone and trying to find our best form. We have the armoury to trouble any side in the world if we put our game together. But we still have plenty to think about and a lot of hard work to do. Saturday proved that.

Rob Andrew was talking to Peter Bills

Carling handed World Cup lead

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING, having led England on Saturday to all the prizes in rugby union's five nations' championship — grand slam, triple crown and Calcutta Cup — has been confirmed captain for the World Cup, which begins in South Africa in May.

Carling became captain in 1988, at the age of 22, and has now led England in 48 internationals. The decision may have an element of rubber stamping but Jack Rowell, the England manager, said yesterday: "Captains have to prove themselves on and off the field and he has done that. I find him first rate." The England World Cup squad will be named next Monday.

Wales, who plummeted from champions in 1994 to winners of the wooden spoon, amid doubts over the future of their coach, Alan Davies, and the

resignation of a selector, Geoff Evans, and an adviser, J. P. R. Williams, are due to announce their squad on Thursday.

The Irish squad is unlikely to emerge before the end of the month and Scotland, who play Romania on April 22, will wait until April 6. Peter Wright, the Boroughmuir prop, sprung a collarbone at Twickenham and the recovery time takes him dangerously close to departure for South Africa. One of Scotland's pool opponents in South Africa, the Ivory Coast, lost 97-7 to Northern Transvaal in Pretoria on Friday.

"I had a lot of satisfaction from the nature of our win," Rowell said after the 24-12 victory over Scotland at Twickenham, during which he took the field at half-time, a policy approved by the International Rugby Football Board but frowned upon by the Rugby Football Union.

Carling, captain of a grand slam team for the third time after the triumphs of

1991 and 1992, was confident in his belief that England could win the World Cup. "I always felt we were in control but I don't think we really imposed ourselves," he said. "We were doing just enough but we were a little bit tense. It was a big step for us. It might not have looked it but it was."

Gavin Hastings, the Scotland captain, was generous in defeat but added: "Scotland have contributed enormously to this five nations' season and I'm very proud of the boys. There is a good blend of youth and experience, especially in the back division, and it would be crazy if we did not make use of the speed and youth we have available in the conditions we will find in South Africa."

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England's women wait, page 24
Wales in disarray, page 24
England's grand day, page 25



MOORE OF AN ARGUMENT

Brian Moore, England's hooker, said Scotland "ruined the whole game" at Twickenham. David Miller agrees: "Good for Moore." But Simon Barnes says: "There's no obligation to entertain." Page 25

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Stand-off half's kicking secures grand slam as defences hold sway in title decider

Andrew gains foothold for England's ascent

England.....24
Scotland.....12

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SHOULD a grand slam be won in the grand manner? In a fallible sporting world, such an outcome cannot come to order and, at Twickenham on Saturday, the five nations' championship concluded like a distant storm — the lightning of an outstanding game flickered on the horizon, but, when the thunder died away, there stood the pragmatic scoreline, all kicks, which gave England their third grand slam in five years and their eleventh overall.

Yet the achievement, their's and Scotland's, should not be minimised merely because the grace-notes were absent. England have put themselves into the same league as the great Wales sides of the 1970s, which carried off three slams during the decade of the dragon — the



FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	4	0	0	96	39	8
Scotland	4	3	0	1	87	71	6
France	4	2	0	2	77	70	4
Ireland	4	1	0	3	44	83	2
Wales	4	0	0	4	43	88	0

RESULTS: Ireland 6 England 20, France 21 Wales 6; England 31 France 10, Scotland 26 Ireland 13; Wales 9 England 23, France 21 Scotland 23; Scotland 26 Wales 13, Ireland 7 France 25

fire now extinguished — and may yet match the achievements of their English predecessors of the 1930s, who won four slams during that decade.

This is a side which has gathered maturity far more quickly than I, for one, believed that it would. That England remain below the peak of achievement is both an indication of how far still maturing process has to go and how well the effort is building for the World Cup in South Africa this summer. In winning this championship, England did not construct anything near an 80-minute game, but they have shown signs of being the most complete KV England that have put into the field.

Nor should Scotland's part in this championship be overlooked. Gavin Hastings was



Tony Underwood accelerates past Logan, the Scotland wing, to set another attack in motion during the victory at Twickenham that brought England the grand slam. Photograph: Ian Stewart

insistent that they would have to play the "game of their lives" if they were to win at Twickenham, and he confessed, afterwards, that they did not yet have the look of a captain whose expectations of his team have been broadly achieved. That so young a unit should have been in a position to even challenge for a grand slam is a credit in itself.

The Save and Prosper international did not match up to expectation because it reverted to a singularly old-fashioned contest, which England, with their greater physical power, were always more likely to win. Both sides were so intent on neutralising the other that, when the time came to play the ball through the hands, there

were few left to do so. Of the two outstanding back rows in the championship, little was seen, because they were literally wrapped up in each other.

It does not need a succession of England "columnists" to complain about Scotland infringing at ruck and maul. The penalty count speaks for itself: 19-9 in England's favour, with two free kicks apiece, as Scotland forwards did what they have done time out of mind, burrowing into mauls, running offside at rucks, pulling Bracken into the heap of bodies so that the young scrum half was happy just to be able to work ball into Andrew's hands.

It was happy to reside there.

Both sides had a sniff of the line in the first half, but Tony Underwood could not retain possession and Rory Underwood's tackle on Gavin Hastings allowed Carr to intercept the pass intended for Townsend. In Hastings's mind, a turning-point arrived when he set off on a diagonal run so reminiscent of his match-winning try in Paris but which was foiled in Carr's tackle which dislodged the ball.

Sadly for Hastings, who set a championship record for Scotland of 56 points, a greater turning-point came when thoughts of the game against Wales may have flickered through his mind. Fiddling Rory Underwood's long kick a couple of metres from his own

line, he set off upfield and found Weir with him — a pairing which precipitated a try by Peters against Wales. Here, however, Weir was faced by the England's locks and centres, was fished out in front of his posts, a gift for Andrew.

He had already kicked four first-half penalty goals, one after a bad couple of minutes for Carling who received the yellow card for stamping on Carling and then wandered offside. Andrew erased the effect of Chalmers's two well-taken dropped goals in a half when Hastings was not permitted one chance at goal, which suggests that the referee — the one who counts —

believed that England's discipline was better than Scotland's. Yet England, tight in the scrum, could never stifle Weir at the lineout nor achieve the better rucked ball that Redpath received.

Hilton and Richards left the fray with sprung rib cartilages, which will probably keep them out of their respective clubs' cup semi-finals on April 1, but Andrew kept applying the rod so as to preserve a cushion of either six or nine points — never enough for total England equanimity. Guscott scorched into space but turned away from his support, and the younger Underwood made 40 metres in the dying moments before the cover caught him. The domes-

tic chores are complete; South Africa awaits.

SCORES: England, Penalty goals: Andrew (7), Dropped goal: Andrew, Scotland: Penalty goals: G Hastings (2), Dropped goal: Chalmers (2). ENGLAND: M J Carr (Capt), T Underwood (Leicester), W D G Carling (Hartlepool), J O Baines (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester), C R Andrew (Worcester), K P P Bracken (Bristol), J Leonard (Warwick), S C Meehan (Bath), V E Ubagu (Bath), I A R Rother (Northampton), M O Johnson (Leicester), M G Bayfield (Northampton), S B Clarke (Bath), D Richards (Leicester), Richards replaced by S O Ojomah (Bath, 51min), Bracken temporarily replaced by G D Morris (Orel, 16-23). Scotland temporarily replaced by G C Rowntree (Leicester, 66-78). SCOTLAND: A G Hastings (Widnes, Capt), C A Jenner (Mussel), G P J Townsend (Glasgow), S Hastings (Widnes), M J Logan (Strathclyde), C M Chalmers (Melrose), S W Redpath (Melrose), D I W Hilton (Bath), K S Milne (Glasgow), P H H Wright (Boroughmuir), R I Westwright (West Hartlepool/Army), G W Weir (Melrose), S J Campbell (Dundee HFP), R Morrison (London Scottish), E W Peters (Bath), Hilton replaced by J J Morrison (Dundee HFP, 42). Referee: S Spring (Ireland).

Brian Moore claims that Scotland ruined the game. Discuss

Scotland's spoils yield only negative equity

By DAVID MILLER

If World Cup victory by England is to depend on the last-ditch tackling by Mike Carr, at full back, that kept out Scotland on Saturday, heaven help the nation's nerves. England may be bland slam champions, but the odds of success in South Africa will have lengthened after this less than storming performance. All that got slammed on Saturday were the laws of the game.

Jack Rowell, the England manager, has warned often enough that kicks ahead behind the opposition defence that do not find touch — as opposed to up-and-under — invite instant, dangerous counter-attack, especially on South Africa's firm grounds. England were several times guilty of this: among them, Andrew, the match-winner, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa would exact a harsher penalty for such errors.

A shallow kick ahead that is retrieved, especially by a runner as threatening as Gavin Hastings, can catch the kicker's entire team spread across the pitch, disorganised and not knowing where to expect the point of counter-attack. Momentarily, there is no wall of resistance such as England famously have at set pieces. England now had to be thankful that Scotland were so average, even if they were dismayed at what amounted to Scotland's persistent cheating.

Rugby union is a strange game. Euphemisms dominate. The leading international countries are to all effect professional, yet the point of head in sand, continue to pretend that the game is amateur. One player lacerates the face of another with his studs, and people are reluctant to say outright who was the guilty man, when everybody knows. Scotland bent the laws until they were almost back to front and nobody, except, it seems, Brian Moore, the England hooker, is willing to spell it out publicly.

Moore said that Scotland wrecked the game. They did. Traditionalists are appalled by his attitude, by his honesty, he has dared to say, like Danny Kaye: "The king is in the alchemist's den." Decent chaps do not say that kind of thing. I say good for Moore. Pretending that things are not the way they are, in rugby, is even worse, in my opinion, than simply ignoring the way things are, as in football.

Scotland were deliberate and cynical in their attitude. Five years ago, to frustrate England at Murrayfield, they had set about collapsing the scrum as often as possible. The referee did almost nothing. On Saturday, at Twickenham, they were offside in loose play continuously throughout the match. Brian Stirling, the Irish referee, could have given Andrew another ten penalty kicks, several of them directly under the posts. In a properly controlled match, Scotland would have been humiliated as the price of their own forlorn expediency.

Frankly, the match as a match was not worth bothering about. If the result had not been all-important, if there had not been a fortnight of expectation and World Cup prognostication hanging on the outcome, you would have been forgiven for walking out before the end. All the talk is of brave Scotland hearts giving the game everything, when all they gave it was a chloroform pad.

We have seen this negative mentality in football for the past 30 years. In no time, the mentality will have gripped rugby union. Unless referees have the courage, and the backing, to stamp on the practice now, to give cards and penalty tries for persistent fouling, rugby can never again be the sport that some people were fooling themselves, at 4.30pm on Saturday, it still is. That belief is wilful self-deception.

A legitimate lesson in playing the referee

By SIMON BARNES

There is no getting away from the despicable thing that the Scots did at Twickenham on Saturday. They tried to stop England winning — and that is just not on. Worse — on a different day, they might have succeeded.

"They just ruined the whole game," Brian Moore said afterwards. Well, yes. So what was the scene in the dressing-room before England played France this year? "Thanks, Will — any comments, Moore?"

"Listen, chaps. Let's go out and have a good time. Let the French run at us. Most entertain the French spectators who came all the way from France. After all, it's only a game."

There are very many ways of trying to win ball games, and Scotland took the option of snuffing out the opposition at its point of greatest strength. It is called "spoiling" in any game, and it is a wholly legitimate tactic.

There is no moral obligation to entertain in sport. The obligation is to do your best to win. Taking bribes to lose is immoral; trying to injure opponents is immoral; killing the ball is dreary, but it is a perfectly legitimate way of trying to win against odds.

"All they did was hang around offside, they crept into the middle of mauls and tried to kill the ball at every opportunity." This was Victor Ubagu, who stands next to Moore, not only in the England scrum.

So they did, but offside is not a matter of morality. The referee was generous about offside; referees vary enormously in a game dependent on interpretation. Play the referee: an important skill in all games.

You assess what he punishes, and you do not do it. You assess his areas of leniency, and work them. England showed that they lack the skill of adjusting to a referee's standards: not a good pointer for the World Cup,

when refereeing inconsistency will be crucial.

What hurts Moore is the fact that the Scots might have stolen the game. They stifled the England pack, they did not allow rapid ball to the backs, they forced Andrew into defensive kicking when he might have hoped to attack.

What is more, the Scots had the best player on the pitch, and he came closest to scoring a try. That, of course, was Gavin Hastings, who with the line in sight had the ball stripped away by Carr in what Carling said was perhaps the turning point.

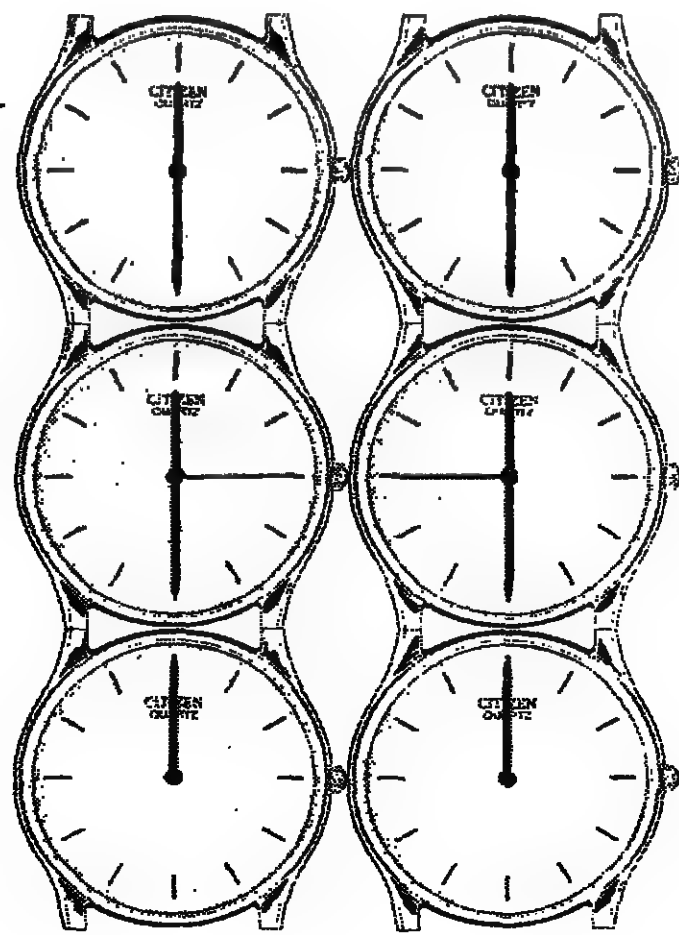
Hastings was less than charmed by the remarks of Insulating Tape Man. All untrue, he said. "We tried to move the ball from all areas of the field, and we came closer to scoring a try than

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they did." The Scotland back division looked very good indeed at times.

Yes, Scotland might have stolen it, but they did not. The reason is simplicity itself. Every time the generous-hearted referee did choose to punish Scotland, it cost them three points. To kick half the chances would have been a respectable performance, but Andrew was a man inspired, and that is why England won.

Scotland go into the World Cup as the best of the second division. They may not win it, but they can give any side in the world a fright on the day. England had hoped to move swaggering into the elite. Instead, they looked, on Saturday, like the worst of the first. They wanted to send shock-waves through rugby; Scotland did not let them. That is what Moore found unforgivable.



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Challenger captures crown after surviving tenth-round knockdown

Collins points out Eubank's failings

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN MILLETRETT

CHRIS EUBANK, the great escape artist who prides himself on winning by doing as little as possible, became the victim of his own policy here in Co Cork on Saturday.

He had victory within his grasp in the tenth round when Steve Collins, the challenger for his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title, was out on his feet and needed only one blow to finish him off. Yet, instead of delivering it in person, Eubank preferred to ask Collins to come to him. The Irishman, being well ahead on points, had no intention of doing so and simply survived the next couple of rounds to relieve Eubank of his title.

Eubank's critics will no doubt be glad that the man who took so much money from the sport he hated and gave so little in return after winning the title in 1991 will now have to work as a contender to support his extravagant lifestyle.

However, Barry Hearn, Eubank's promoter, believes that, if the former champion decides to carry on boxing, he could get the biggest pay-day of his career from a return against Collins at Lansdowne Road or Croke Park.

Hearn said: "I don't know whether he'll come back or not, but, if he does, he'll be bigger than before because the British public have a way of turning round and taking people who have been beaten to their hearts. The return with Collins would be a sell-out, bigger than the return with Nigel Benn."

"At this moment, my gut reaction is that he will say: 'I've had a good run, maybe I'll do something else'. But then, the reality of what he's going to do will seep in and he will come to me for advice. I won't volunteer any information unless he asks for it."

Although Eubank had no complaints about the decision that gave the bout, 116-114, 115-111, 114-113, to Collins, he must know that, with a little more effort, he could beat Collins next time.

"I thought I did enough, but, obviously, I stayed too close to

the line," Eubank said. "I have had close shaves and I've come up with the right side of the coin, but, this time, it was the wrong side. Defeat is not such a bad thing when you've had 43 good nights. Perhaps I will now get empathy from the people of my home town of Brighton. Believe it or not, I can walk around easier now."

The expensive mistake of not doing something to stop Collins in the tenth was shrugged off by Eubank. However, Ronnie Davies, his trainer, was choked with disappointment. "You gave your title away," Davies said to him. He explained: "I told him he was two rounds behind and he had to knock him out. He put Collins down for nine. He needed one more punch."

Eubank replied: "I've always done it my way, even if it is not always the right way. Tonight didn't work. I asked Ronnie to accept that. I'm not a perfect fighter, my brinkmanship is very fine."

If Eubank's brinkmanship failed, Collins's gamesmanship succeeded. The new champion revealed that the talk of being hyponotised before the bout was a trick to put Eubank off his stroke. "He took the bait, hook, line and rod," Collins said. "We were laughing all the way home [after the weigh-in]. He thought I was a zombie and was crying like a baby wanting to pull out."

Having outwitted Eubank outside the ring, Collins proceeded to outsmart him in it. By using the simple tactic of making Eubank stretch, Collins was able to counter successfully with a jab all night, piling up the points. Of the first seven rounds, I gave Eubank only one.

It was only when, St Patrick and his feast the day before notwithstanding, Collins fell into an adders' nest of blows in the ninth and tenth that Eubank began to come back into the bout. By then, it was too late. The boxing ring is not the place to observe H. W. Davies's famous words about standing and staring, though, if Eubank retires, he will have plenty of time for that.



Eubank is left on the ropes during his unsuccessful defence of the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title

Lost Leeds hand

Wigan a clear run towards title

Sheffield Eagles 31
Leeds 22

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

LEEDS ceded a 14-match winning run yesterday and, barring Wigan defying all logic by pressing the self-destruct button, a sixth successive Stones Bitter rugby league championship title is now destined for Central Park.

Wigan's home match with St Helens on April 14 should wrap up a formality, although, if Leeds falter again, it could be sooner. Leeds now require Wigan to lose three of their last seven matches, and a 42-6 win at Salford is hardly evidence of a side about to slip on a banana skin.

In ending up flat on their face at the Don Valley Stadium, Leeds were embarrassed by as bad a display as they have given all season. It was a highly competent Sheffield performance, but hardly needed to be to knock the championship contenders off course.

If Leeds had Wembley on their minds, they might have reminded themselves that they still have to beat Featherstone Rovers in the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup. Certainly, they were not focused on the task in hand as the Eagles scored into an early lead that they never relinquished.

After pulling out of a merger with Doncaster, an insolvency firm as match sponsors might have seemed an apposite choice, but Sheffield are far from bankrupt, particularly when it comes to attacking ideas. At scrum half, Sheridan

marshalled his troops with unerring precision.

Leeds pulled back to within a point at 17-16, but disaster overwhelmed them in the last 15 minutes.

A scoring run down the left by Luchessa, the Frenchman, enabled Sodje to reach out and score. Briggs then banged over two quick dropped goals and, when Iro butterfingers a straightforward pass, Price was the beneficiary with the softest of the four tries.

From the outset, Leeds looked lost and disjointed. One-up rugby produced a first-half score by Lowe, but Sheffield possessed a far keener cutting edge. This left a ragged Leeds defence in ribbons as Sheridan and Hughes found room to score and Mycoe, who landed six of eight goal attempts, kept the scoreboard ticking over.

When Cummins beat three men on the right and Mann found a clear channel for another try, Leeds looked to have got over their hour of living dangerously, but they reckoned without Sheffield's spirit, and a dire afternoon was summed up by the sight of Schofield being carried off with a knee injury that has put an appearance in the semi-final on April 1 in doubt.

SCORERS: Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Sheridan, Hughes, Sodje, Price, Goals: Mycoe (6). Dropped goals: Briggs (2). Leeds: Tries: Lowe, Cummins, Mann, Mercer, Goals: Holroyd (6).

SEATTLE: D. Eagles: Tries: Luchessa, B. Sodje, D. Mycoe, M. Carrison (sub), C. Briggs, (3min), L. Scott, R. Price, R. Sheridan; P. Broadbent, L. Jackson, M. Lister, P. Hughes, K. Sanor, D. Turner (sub), C. Randall, (35). LEEDS: A. Tate, J. Filton, K. Iro, C. Wines, F. Cummins, G. Schofield (sub), J. Lusham, (37), G. Holroyd, E. Farnall (sub), N. Hamon, (29), J. Lowe, G. Mann, G. Mercer, R. Eymis, E. Haring, R. Smith.

Salford overpowered

WIGAN remain on course for a sixth successive title after a 42-6 victory over Salford at The Willows yesterday. Without five internationals, they still had far too much power and pace for their opponents.

Sean Long, a second-half substitute, showed, in the 31 minutes that he was on the field, that he is a player to watch. Salford kept in touch for the first hour, but four tries in the last 19 minutes proved

Wigan's superiority. Just before half-time, Connolly intercepted Gregory's short pass to race 75 yards for his second try, and, in the second half, Tuigamala, Aitchison, Cassidy and Radlinski added further tries for Wigan.

Martin Hall, the Wigan hooker, was put on report for an alleged spear tackle. A video of the incident will be viewed by the Rugby Football League this week.

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judgment estimate how far each shot travelled, in yards. Then just pick up the phone, dial the Hotline, follow the instructions and key in your answers (you need a touchtone telephone). In yesterday's *Sunday Times* (and repeated here) we teed-off with Nick Faldo at Augusta in 1989. Today we play with Sandy Lyle on another hole at this famous course. If you did not play yesterday, we reproduce *The Sunday Times* challenge to give you a second chance to go for the jackpot prize. To win the jackpot you must compete in all of the 18 games.

Hawaii dream prize




FOR readers who each week play *The Times* golf hole on Monday as well as *The Sunday Times* hole the day before, there is the chance of winning a golfing holiday worth up to £7,000. This week's destination is Lanai in Hawaii, which has two par-72 championship golf courses: the Lodge at Keole and the Manele Bay Hotel. The tour company Great Golf Resorts of the World, plus American Airlines and Avis car rental have combined to provide a dream golfing holiday for two people for each of the nine weeks of the Golf Masters Challenge.

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For your chance to win one of three different prizes follow these simple steps. The £25,000 accumulator prize. To play this game you must start with *The Sunday Times* game which we repeat here (left). If you did not take part yesterday, ring the Hotline number 0891 55 59 01. A recorded message will give you instructions and prompt you when and how to answer. You will be asked to key in your yardage for the shots using the keypad on your telephone. At the end of the call you will be allocated a Personal Identification Number (Pin). You must make a note of your Pin as you will need to use it when you enter further holes in the Golf Masters Challenge including today's *Times* game and to enable us to collate your scores for the cumulative com-



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Correct answer:	0 points
0-1 yd off actual score:	1 point
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6-10 yards off actual score:	3 points
11-15 yards off actual score:	5 points
16-20 yards off actual score:	10 points
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30-40 yards off actual score:	20 points
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For example, if we take an imaginary par four hole which is 484 yds long:
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Your estimate 278 150 50 8
Points scored 16 3 10 2 = 30 points

Your total score is 30 points. The computer will convert each score to the following golfing equivalent:
4 points equals 2 under par
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9 to 15 points equals par
16 to 18 points equals 1 over par
20 to 25 points equals 2 over par
26 points and over equals 3 over par

In the above example, you score three over par.

The second hole in the contest, featured the 18th at Augusta National, as birdied by Sandy Lyle in the 1988 Masters Championship. It is a 405yd par four and Lyle completed in three shots, one under par, in good weather. He teed off with a 1 iron. He used a number 7 iron for the second shot to the green and holed with a putter.



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- Selections must consist of three-digit codes representing distances for each shot specified. If your selection distance is less than 100 yards you must still key in three digits, using zeros if necessary eg. for 90 yds key in 099. For 9 yds key in 009. Please note: only touchtone telephones can be used to play *The Golf Masters Challenge*.
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GUIDE TO DISTANCE PER CLUB:
Driver - 250-300 yds
3 iron - 170-210 yds

SKY SPORTS adds the Ryder Cup in September to its golf coverage

strokesaver
THE WORLD'S NO.1 GOLF COURSE GUIDE

The Open champion Nick Price on the 18th at Turnberry - last year is featured in *The Sunday Times* next week

Crucial result extends Blackburn Rovers' lead in the FA Carling Premiership to six points

United's desire folds in face of Liverpool passion

Liverpool 2
Manchester United..... 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AFTER one of those passion plays exclusive to Anfield, the managers of Liverpool and Manchester United passed in the corridor. Roy Evans, relieved that his team had avoided three consecutive home defeats, had already said: "Don't write off United for the title, you do that at your peril." He is a nice enough man to have meant it genuinely, but as Alex Ferguson, four days away from going to Buckingham Palace to receive his CBE, was reminded that Blackburn Rovers come here for the last game of the championship, he responded tartly: "I wouldn't bank on Liverpool doing it!"

The rancour in Ferguson's voice, heavily tinged by the admission that his team had simply failed to pass the ball with anything like their customary skill, mirrored the intense animosity that exists between Liverpool and United.

Before the end, the new Kop began taunting his team and his desire for a third title in three years with the chorus "Always look on the bright side of life". That, of course, is the United anthem, and the way that Liverpool had played, so full of competitive fire and passion, it was as if their own Cup Final was on the line. "It is totally out of order for people to ask me if we felt we were doing any favours for Blackburn today," Evans said. "We were playing

for points for Europe, for pride in Liverpool, and we shall play the same way when Blackburn come here."

The same way? One wonders if they could. In midfield Barnes, until his strained thigh obliged him again to retire from the contest, had the beating of Ince. It was no surprise that his passing touch was more refined, but to see him compete, even on the seat of his pants, was rare to the point of disbelief.

Yet, there he was in the 24th minute, grounded by a thundering challenge. There he lay until the ball rebounded off Pallister when Barnes, still firmly seated, nevertheless knowingly swung his left foot at the ball, shielded it, and

Full results and league tables Page 28

supplied McManaman. The youngster, leggy, effervescent and tireless, ran the ball towards Rush, but he missed it and so another Liverpool apprentice, Redknapp swept it up.

Redknapp now burst forward with thrilling intent. He swerved to the left of Irwin and expertly drove the ball between the legs of the advancing Pallister, wide of the grasp of Schmeichel. It lodged low down neatly inside the far post, Redknapp's third Premiership goal of the season.

"I just swung my left foot," Redknapp said self-effacingly. "I took a bit of stick off the lads, using my left like that." United took plenty of stick from Ferguson for the way

they allowed themselves to be bullied and bossed in the midfield. Ince was booed at every touch, but he has known that treatment on other grounds. Perhaps he was subdued because on Thursday, Ferguson's day at the Palace, he and Cantona are in the dock at Croydon Magistrates' Court. Whatever the reason, before half-time Redknapp had again shrugged past Ince, had directed the ball cunningly between the United centre-backs, putting Fowler one against one on Schmeichel. The goalkeeper was supreme, holding his ground and then jack-knifing to his right to push the shot away. Where were United? Where was Cole? He, until half-time, was a substitute, watching from the bench. He may have scored five times in one game, but his failure to hit the net in six others has given United little, and what is more, his lack of instant control so often breaks the rhythm of United's touch play. Ferguson had spoken of a thigh strain Cole felt in training on Thursday. A diplomatic strain it must have been, for on he came at half-time, requiring a shuffle that took Keane to right back, Irwin to the left and Sharpe out of the game.

For a time United did raise the tempo, contriving two most threatening strikes, both in the 55th minute. First Kanchelskis crossed on the run, Hughes headed down and Giggs only half-hit his volley; James saved gratefully. Then Ince prompted Hughes to try a left-foot shot, the goalkeeper again reacting swiftly at his near post.

Alas for United that was the highlight and, in that same period, Bruce became one of four players booked — Keane, Redknapp and Thomas were the others — and so Bruce, the United skipper, is now suspended and out of the FA Cup semi-final.

Just as this rough edge of United's desire threatened to wash over Liverpool, so poor Bruce became the architect of his side's self-destruction. Thomas had won the ball with a muscular shoulder charge in midfield, he crossed low from the right, McManaman attempted a shot but it was going nowhere until Bruce deflected it, wrong-footing Schmeichel, scoring an own goal in the 88th minute.

Blackburn are six points clear with eight games to play. Much will depend on how their nerve holds.

LIVERPOOL, 9-1-95: D. James — M. Wright, N. Ruddock, P. Babb — J. Scales, J. Redknapp, J. Barnes (sub: M. Thomas, S. Irwin), S. Barnes — S. McManaman, J. Rush (sub: M. Walters, G. R. Fowler).
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-5-1): P. Schmeichel — D. Irwin, S. Bruce, G. Pallister, A. Sheene (sub: A. Cole, M. Barnes), J. Kanchelskis, R. Keane (sub: N. Bux, B. B. Fox, B. McClair, R. Gough) — M. Hughes. Referee: G. Ashby.



Redknapp fires past Pallister's despairing lunge to score Liverpool's first goal in the victory over Manchester United at Anfield yesterday

Beardsley conjures up last-minute magic

Newcastle United 1
Arsenal 0

By PETER BALL

IT IS impossible to overstate Peter Beardsley's importance to Newcastle United. Missing when they were knocked out of the FA Cup at Everton a week ago, he returned yesterday to keep alive their hopes of European qualification, his goal in the dying seconds finally ending Arsenal's spirited resistance.

Until Beardsley's drive from 30 yards flew past Bartram's despairing dive to nestle in the corner, Newcastle had shown few signs of beating the Arsenal goalkeeper, for all their promising approach work. That owed something to Adams, a lot to Bartram's fine work,

and more to some weak finishing.

Beardsley showed them how. "They aren't making what he's got any more," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said, searching for new words to describe his team's inspiration.

So both of London's European semi-finalists lost when confronted with the more demanding Northern opposition at the top of the Premier League. But while Chelsea were lucky to escape from Blackburn without a thrashing, Arsenal left Newcastle yesterday feeling hard done by.

In spite of the evidence in Auxerre on Thursday, it is not the old Arsenal, although early signs were encouraging. In the first minute Adams gave the linesman a volley for failing to raise his flag, by the

second minute the second offside appeal had been granted; by the fourth Merson had been booked for a petulant show of dissent when pulled up for handball.

But from then on, Arsenal got better. They may never rival Spurs for free-flowing football, but there were signs that Stewart Houston's back-ground as a Manchester United player is rubbing off, and they played far more football than George Graham's dour bunch.

"We came up to try and get points," Houston said, "we haven't got any, but we had a go."

They also stifled Newcastle effectively. Fox and Gillespie always threatened, Beardsley probed and pried, but Kison was a blunt instrument in front of goal, and as Adams had to kick off the

undercurrent of discontent began to swirl round St James' Park.

The discontent became vocal as Mr Willard gave a free-kick for obstruction as Bould brought down Elliott inside the penalty area and ignored frantic appeals when the ball struck Adams' hand. But there was a sign of relief when he waved play on as Elliott clipped Wright's heels as he bore down on Srnicek.

"I said to Stewart Houston at half-time 'I think the penalty's been abolished today,'" Keegan said, "but at least he was consistent — he didn't give any of them."

Denied his penalty, Wright nearly made up for it early in the second half as he spotted Srnicek off his line and chipped him, but the ball bounced off the bar.

line as Beardsley cut in from the left. Bartram half saving his shot, and Gillespie went close as he beat Merson and Jensen on an exciting run, but his shot curved wide of the far post.

From then on Bartram dealt with everything competently until Beardsley had the last word. "It must have been a great strike to beat our keeper on that form," Houston reflected.

Yet, worryingly for Houston, these were the sort of games that Arsenal used to win 1-0, not lose by that same score.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Srnicek — M. Holtby, B. Venson, D. Peacock, R. Black — K. Gillespie, P. Bracewell, R. Lee (sub: L. Clark, T. H. For — P. Beardsley, P. Kison).
ARSENAL (4-4-2): V. Bartram — L. Dixon, A. Adams, S. Bould, M. Wright (sub: P. Merson, J. Jensen, S. Mowbray, G. Holder (sub: R. Partridge, T. Wright, J. Harrison (sub: E. McCollins, D. McCollins). Referee: G. Willard.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE				
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Blackburn	34	78	+41	DWWDW
2 Manchester Utd	34	70	+39	LWWDL
3 Newcastle	34	68	+22	WWLWW
4 Liverpool	34	57	+28	DWDLW
5 Nottm Forest	34	57	+15	DDWWL
6 Leeds	32	52	+10	DDWWL
7 Tottenham	32	51	+10	DDWWL
8 Wimbledon	33	45	-15	WLWWL
9 Sheffield Wed	35	43	-2	WDLLL
10 Coventry	35	43	-18	DDDLW
11 QPR	31	44	-7	DWWLL
12 Manchester City	35	44	-7	DDDLW
13 Arsenal	35	40	-1	WWLLL
14 Chelsea	34	40	-5	WDWLL
15 Aston Villa	34	39	-2	LDLLL
16 Middlesbrough	35	38	-8	DDDDL
17 Everton	34	38	-9	WDLWL
18 West Ham	34	37	-11	WLDDW
19 Crystal Palace	32	34	-11	LLDWL
20 Southampton	32	33	-9	DDDDL
21 Ipswich	32	23	-41	LLWLL
22 Leicester	32	21	-30	LDLLL

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

McGinlay proves a point to Millwall

GAMES in hand are meaningless unless you actually go ahead and win them and Bolton Wanderers, looking increasingly like Endeavour Insurance League champions, did just that at Millwall yesterday. After both Tranmere Rovers and Middlesbrough had contrived to lose on Saturday, Bolton went to the New Den and chiselled out a workmanlike, but nonetheless invaluable, 1-0 win.

They now trail Tranmere by two just two points at the top of the first division, but have two more games in hand to put that right. On yesterday's evidence, they almost certainly will.

John McGinlay was their matchwinner, scoring his sev-

enteenth goal of the season with a 20-yard drive with just seven minutes left of an otherwise dull encounter. It was particularly sweet for McGinlay, who joined Bolton from Millwall for £125,000 in October 1992.

There was drama at The Hawthorns, where Swindon Town twice came from behind to beat West Bromwich Albion 5-2 in a thrilling relegation struggle. Peter Thorne scored a fine hat-trick that took his goal tally to eight in 11 games since his £200,000 move from Blackburn Rovers. Swindon, nonetheless, remain in the bottom four, although, just above them, Sunderland's worries increased when they lost 3-1 at Grimsby.

County smiling after fun final

Ascoli 1
Notts County 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT WAS a fun, family day out. Mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters with painted faces, furry life-sized mascots, six-foot kickabouts and penalty shoot-outs. Never mind the cold, and 70,000 empty seats, the Anglo-Italian Cup Final at Wembley yesterday provided many a memory that few, young or old, will forget.

For Notts County, second from bottom in the Endevour Insurance League first division, and Ascoli, third from bottom in the Italian Serie B, it represented a welcome relief from the rigours of rallying against relegation. Neither

side suggested they will achieve their ultimate goal, of league survival, but the fruit on the table was at least enthusiastically offered and easy on the palate.

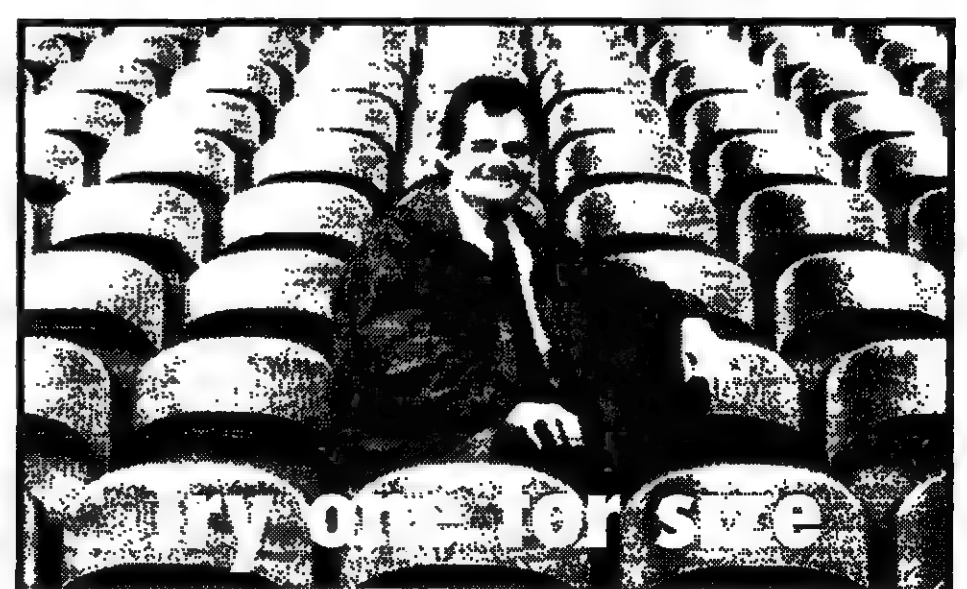
Ascoli, with whom Liam Brady concluded his Italian experience in 1987, rarely got to grips with the awkward 6ft 3in frame of White up front. Bizzarri, the appropriately named goalkeeper, spent most of his time moaning and groaning with typical Latin flair whenever White or his team-mates went near him.

County went ahead in the 12th minute when Bizzarri missed Legg's huge throw in and Agnani claimed the final touch before Benetti. Television replays suggested that possibly nobody touched it. Ascoli equalised in the 32nd

minute when Mirabelli tucked home a loose ball but County scored the goal that won the trophy at the second time of asking — they lost 1-0 to Brescia at the same venue last year — when White powered in a header, in first half injury time, from Devlin's deep cross.

Phil Turner, the County captain, led his team up the steps, collected the cup and embarked on the lap of honour. Most of the 11,704 crowd went wild, just like at the end of any other Wembley final.

ASCOLI (4-3-3): M. Bazzani — P. Benetti, F. Zanoncelli, C. Piccinini, C. Mancuso (sub: M. Miano, S. Senni) — L. Marzotto, M. Viani, G. Bosc — J. Bencini (sub: M. Mancoske, T. A. Bencini, W. Mirabelli).
NOTTS COUNTY (4-4-2): S. Cherry (sub: P. Devlin, P. Turner, M. Simpson, A. Legg — A. Agnani (sub: T. Gallagher, S. D. White). Referee: C. Agius (Malta).



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MANCHESTER UNITED	£211	WOLVERHAMPTON	£220
BLACKBURN ROVERS	£211	WOLVES	£220

MANCHESTER £200, NEWCASTLE £110, ALL OTHERS £110, 100% TO MAN CITY, 100% TO NEWCASTLE

Collymore hogs headlines

Nottingham Forest 3
Southampton 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

NO GROBBELAAR, no story? No worries. Nottingham Forest possess Stan Collymore and, wherever the shaven-headed one treads, there is a tale not far behind.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton goalkeeper, should have provided the headlines at the City Ground on Saturday — how he returned, 72 hours after assisting police with their inquiries into alleged match-fixing, to play a blinder — but it was not to be. Instead, he sat on the

substitutes' bench as Dave Beasant, his replacement, tried valiantly to thwart Forest's push for Europe. That was not to be either, two goals from Roy and another from Collymore reflecting Southampton's inferiority.

At least Collymore provided a glimmer of intrigue. When will he agree a new contract? Will he be sold? Why did he miss training on Friday? Why do some of his team-mates dislike him?

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, admits that Collymore, 24, is a maverick, a loner and "a problem", but knows that his continued good health is vital to the club's pursuit of a Uefa Cup

place. Contract talks would thus be shelved until the summer, but why did he skip training? To, as a "new man", in Clark's words, sort out a domestic matter.

Collymore, for his part, claimed his eighteenth goal of the season, in the 64th minute, tapping in Stone's cross. Roy's double featured a curling left-footer seven minutes before half-time and a close-range stab with eight minutes left.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): D. Beasant — J. Dodd, R. Hall, K. Morrison, F. Burrell — J. Johnson (sub: M. Emerson, T. G. Hills — P. Devlin, P. Turner, M. Simpson, A. Legg — A. Agnani (sub: T. Gallagher, S. D. White). Referee: K. Cooper (Mid-Glamorgan).

Williamson continues on cloud nine

By Alan Lee

THEY had strutted their stuff through the maddest, merriest week of the racing year but there was no time now to rest and reflect. The life of the steeplechase jockey is unrelenting, in a way that applies to no other sportsmen, and so they were back among us on Saturday, necks on the line and hearts on their sleeves.

Nothing can follow Cheltenham but Uttoxeter had a good try. The best little racecourse in the country used to be a closely kept secret. Not any more. Almost 14,000 squeezed in to see 77 horses compete for £133,000 prize-money.

Here, the theatre was more human than equine. Beneath their helmets and goggles, the

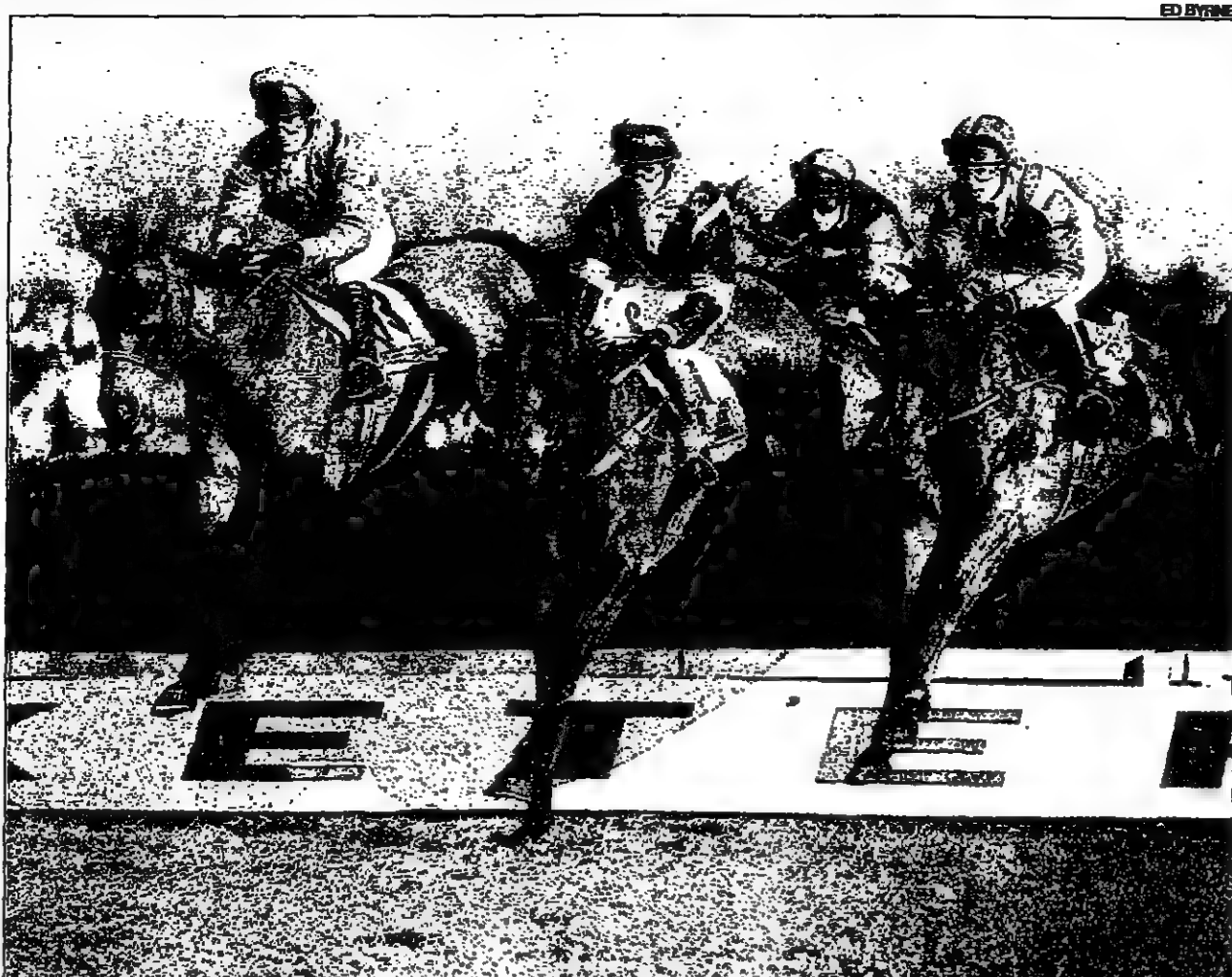
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROSINA MAE
(4.25 Newcastle)
Next best: Abu Simbel
(3.30 Southwell)

feelings of jockeys are not always public property. But no-one could be blind to the emotions of Norman Williamson and Peter Niven as they explored the opposite extremes of their world.

Williamson is coming to terms with celebrity status and he looked drained. After an evening out with Charlie Swan that the Irish champion described as "a quiet night" and Williamson did not, he rode the favourite, Captain Tandy, in the opening steeplechase hurdle. It was back to earth in more ways than one. Williamson was unseated.

When he pulled up Richville in the ensuing Ladbroke Handicap Chase Williamson began to think the humdrum days were back. Then he went out on Lucky Lane, a 12-1



The winner Lucky Lane, centre, is not short of company as he jumps out on the second circuit at Uttoxeter on Saturday

outsider running from a stone out of the handicap, and gave an exhibition of positive front-running to win the week's final showpiece, the Telford Bitter Midlands National. Cloud nine was, after all, still occupied.

Lucky Lane is more accustomed to running in minor events at Fontwell or Taunton where, six years ago, his trainer, Philip Hobbs, succeeded in selling him to owner

Rod Hamilton thanks to a convenient cow. "The agreement was that Rod would buy him if he finished in the first three," explained Hobbs's wife, Sarah. "He came into the straight last but there was a cow by the track and he hates them so much he flew."

Lucky Lane may now go for the Scottish National, target of Saturday's runner-up, Arthur's Minstrel. Where Williamson goes is still more

interesting. Can he be champion jockey? Not this season, perhaps, because with 93 winners he is still 30 adrift of Richard Dunwoody. But next season he will be a serious threat. Life, for him, has changed within a week.

Cheltenham was not so kind to Niven but he came to Uttoxeter with a favourite's chance in four of the feature events. Niven is one of the game's insouciant but what

happened next shattered his defences. Grey Power, a courageous mare, was a favourite of Niven's. The owners were personal friends from north of the border and they deserted the rugger for a 400-mile round trip, confident their horse could win the EBF Tattersalls Mares Novices' Chase Final. There was fleeing disappointment when she finished a gallant second behind Nida, then desolation when she col-

lapsed and died five yards outside the winner's enclosure.

It was one of those moments when even the hard noses of racing, imbued with the logic of why such horses exist, bow their heads. Niven crouched over the motionless mare and wept inconsolably. There was no escape, no corner to crawl into, for he had to go out minutes later and ride in the Midlands National. But Niven's dog day mocked him again and the much-fancied Mr Boston had to be led away from the starting tapes, pronounced lame.

Amid such emotion, the Dunwoody and Maguire story was understandably shelved. Yet it has not gone away. Dunwoody has managed to ride only one winner this past week and is now surrounded

Results from Saturday's five meetings..... Page 31

by rumours of an impending rift with his retaining trainer, Martin Pipe. Maguire has been surrounded only by sadness, his career temporarily forgotten in mourning for his mother.

David Nicholson, who remains him, confirmed on Saturday that Reikel, who also missed Cheltenham, should be fit for Aintree and that Viking Flagship is lined up for a clash there with Martha's Son over 2½ miles.

Now here is a race to extend the fascination of the National Hunt season, every bit as much as the Grand National itself, especially as Maguire will be back where he belongs on Viking Flagship. Today, back at Uttoxeter, he returns from one of the cruellest imposed breaks suffered in even his world of ceaseless contrast.

Wide-ranging profits manifest from Festival

Nobody likes losing, let alone admitting to it, but this is getting ridiculous. The Cheltenham cheery are still echoing as far away as Moscow and the south of France after a Festival which seems to have been remarkably kind to punters — with one notable and quite horrendous exception.

Starting in Moscow, the action centred on the casino in Novy Arbat. I am reliably informed. A friend whose work recently took him and his family to Russia confided before leaving that he was prepared for the harsher life-style and climate his new posting would bring, but the prospect of missing Cheltenham for the first time in about 20 years was weighing heavily on his mind.

As a result, your corres-

pondent was to be found each morning last week cutting up The Times racing page and faxing it, section by section, to Moscow. The effort seems to have been worthwhile. "Long live Klairon Davis," wrote Miracle Man, "the fax replied on Wednesday morning."

A live SIS feed into the casino was supplemented by a bookmaker offering odds of a sort, while a bar and roulette table provided inter-race entertainment.

Armed with the advice that the Irish hope, Dorans Pride, was a certainty in the Stayers' Hurdle and Master Oaks would take the world of beating in the Gold Cup, he has not been heard of since. Either the Mafia has claimed another victim, or he is so rich he can afford to say Dasvidaniye to Moscow and

prepare for an all-out assault on Aintree, in person.

Meanwhile, a sports-mad colleague who whines away his time reporting on the

RICHARD EVANS



Racing
commentary

House of Horrors at Westminster telephoned on the Monday before the Festival began. He has a persuasive manner and I now fully

appreciate how he winks out secrets from the most reluctant Cabinet minister. After being rigid, albeit in the nicest possible fashion, for ten minutes, he summarised our conversation in the style of "Exclusive - Chancellor to slash income tax by 10p" and said: "Purty Road each-way. Dorans Pride and Klairon Davis, both at 5-1 with William Hill this morning. I will put those two in an each-way double."

A telephone call to his office on Thursday afternoon elicited the rather surprising news that he was not in. Probably listening to Prime Minister's Question Time. I mused. "He's gone on holiday to the south of France," came the reply.

It is not clear whether the vacation was prompted by

the 35-1 double and the 7-1 winner, or booked in advance. I have left a message on his answering machine stressing the quality of 1990 claret and just hope the hint is taken. In the meantime I would respectfully suggest to my Editor he starts searching for a new political editor to replace the first Times journalist to seek tax exile.

Elsewhere, there were cheers as doubles came in, placetypes were landed and profits added up. But the bookmakers have to make a living and those backers who show a profit do so only at the expense of others who lose.

And how. By all accounts, the biggest loser was a man who is normally the biggest winner. J.P. McManus, the man known as "The Sundance

Kid", is a fearless Irish gambler who bets in huge sums.

After reportedly placing a six-figure bet on Harcon, who finished second in the Sun Alliance Chase, he similarly went to war with Elegant Lord, a horse carrying his colours, who finished third in the Foxhunter Chase. On the Friday he tried a salvage operation with Cab On Target, an odds-on shot in the opener, but left behind another massive wager in the bookmakers' satchels.

Estimates of his losses over the four days range between £500,000 and £770,000. The correct sum will probably never be known, except by J.P. himself, and it will be of little consolation to the likeable Irishman that his miserable time helped fund the success for many others.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
2.15 Jalisco, 2.50 Kilfinny Cross, 3.20 High Altitude, 3.55 Dark Dawn, 4.25 Mr Kniwit, 4.55 Mr Fudge, 5.25 SANTA CONCERTO (nap).

Brian Bell, 2.50 Kilfinny Cross, 3.55 Dark Dawn, 4.55 Mr Fudge.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 PERCY NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,386; 2m 110yd) (25 runners)

1-122-1 JALISCO 30 (M) M. R. Niven 5-11-4
2-12-1 BT OF LIGHT 47 (M) L. J. 5-11-2
3-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
4-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
5-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
6-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
7-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
8-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
9-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
10-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
11-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
12-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2

4-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2

4-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2

4-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2

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3.55 ALLENDALE ESTATES NORTHUMBRIA HURDLE

(£2,386; 2m 110yd) (25 runners)

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2-12-1 BT OF LIGHT 47 (M) L. J. 5-11-2
3-12-1 BROTHERS 27 (M) N. J. 5-11-2
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SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.00 King of the Desert, 2.30 Aqueduct, 3.00 Berge, 3.30 Abu Simbel, 4.05 Panther, 4.35 Russian Harbinger, 5.05 Mr Moriarty, 5.35 Mr A Dreamer.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

2.00 TROON APPRENTICES HURDLE

(£1,250; 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

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2-12-1 BT OF LIGHT 47 (M) L. J. 5-11-2
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4.05 ST ANDREW'S HANDICAP

(£2,537; 6f) (16)

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Oxford school faces demanding summer field trip to South Africa

Dragon enters magnificent sevens event

BY SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND has not one chance of rugby union glory in South Africa in June, but two. As the Rugby World Cup nears its climax and the England team is — perhaps — preparing for a semi-final showdown, boys of the Dragon School, Oxford, will arrive in the republic to compete in an under-13 sevens tournament which is being billed, somewhat grandiloquently, as a schools world cup.

The Dragon players are small for their sport, but do not assume that they have any less chance than their more lauded countrymen of bringing home the spoils. The



IN SCHOOLS

school thoroughly deserves its place in a competition that will pit it against teams from France, Italy, Argentina, Canada, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and several school, club and development sides from Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The 15-a-side team won all 13 matches it played this season, scoring 330 points and conceding 16; the try count is 59 scored and one conceded. Having not played regularly since the rugby term ended in December, Dragon will be grateful for the Rosslyn Park sevens this week, although not for the determination of every other team to beat them.

When, early in the season,



The Dragon squad practises for the international schools sevens tournament under Gill's watchful gaze. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Dragon played host to Merchiston, a South African school that they will encounter again in South Africa, they found themselves at a serious height and weight disadvantage. "When we met them off the coach and saw them for the first time, they looked like men, not boys," Daniel Gill, the Dragon director of sport,

said. "Yet we surprised them with our speed and mobility and the strength of our defence. They did not get into the match until the last 20 minutes, and by then, it was too late." Merchiston were beaten 18-5.

In South Africa, there will be other problems. The matches will be demanding,

on ground unforgivingly hard, played under rules interpreted differently from at home, and in weather unfamiliarly hot and humid. Because of this, Gill has requested, and been granted, an increase in his playing squad from ten to 12, plus a travelling reserve. The team, whose trip will be largely

funded by Xerox, will be captained by Charles Meager, the scrum half and second-highest try-scorer.

Not that winning is Dragon's sole concern. It never has been. There is no cult of games at the school. Skipper Lynam, the headmaster from 1886 to 1920, who believed that boys and girls should enjoy school and be positive and independent, asked only that the rugby XV achieved its potential. These principles are still evident. The boys' exuberance and love of running rugby is clear. It looks fun.

The school, which was founded in 1877, boasts as distinguished a collection of old boys as any preparatory school in the country. It has had under its wing L. J. Percival, Ronnie Poulton-Palmer and Bernard Gadeny, all England rugby players, and the Clay brothers, international rowers, but the school is better known for high achievers in other fields. Hugh Gaiskell and Baroness Young, John Bejerman and Antonia Fraser,

Christopher Cazenove and Hugh Laurie, were there.

Even now, its most celebrated pupil has academic, rather than sporting, tendencies. Last May, James Silk, a keen botanist, helped save an ancient hedgerow near the school which Wolfson College had proposed removing to expand its sports fields. Silk testified before a public inquiry to the variety of plants and animals that existed in the hedgerow. "I love my cricket," he had said, "but I love the hedge more."

Gill hopes that his boys will bring home memories of more than just the rugby they play and the thrill of attending the Rugby World Cup semi-finals in Cape Town and Durban. One of the main aims of the tournament is to foster the game among the black community and Gill is anxious that they should see the townships. "Many of the boys have travelled widely," he said, "but I don't think any of them will have seen life as it is lived there."

Cheltenham's pot of gold beckons anew

A letter from hyphenated-illigible of Virginia Water inquires why *Afterthoughts* is not about more recent events. There is no reason for this column to go back a few decades, other than to show that things do not change much.

People have run faster, jumped higher, fought more valiantly than others since time began. On the sleaze front, the first forbidden substance was the apple. Calling Samson a Cantona before his time is not unreasonable, nor is there anything original about officials accepting gold to stray from the path of righteousness. What is different today is media technology, which has led to inflated rewards for achieving success or fingering villainy.

To make a positive response to our correspondent, the column today will deal with the Cheltenham Gold Cup last week. The Gloucester course is an amphitheatre of stunning beauty which, over the past decade or two, has been improved to provide the ultimate in fair tests of equine skill and courage. The course management has reaped the rewards of its industry and the Cheltenham Festival is now the true centre point of National Hunt racing in the British Isles. It attracts not only the best horses, but also huge crowds, consisting of that rare mix of English county and extrovert Irish drunk — both of which "sets" bring out the best in each other. Then there is the gambling.

If somebody tells you that he has made money backing the winner of the 3.45 at Ludlow, he is considered a *louche* citizen living in the twilight of criminality. Yet he who puts £25 on the horse that takes the most prestigious race in the jump calendar is a fine fellow, regarded with respect and admiration. At Cheltenham, there is much striving for these qualities.

Before we come to my involvement, let me mention two factors that should be borne in mind: the weather and the traffic — of both of which there is a lot. Yet no sensible person goes to Prestbury Park if he has an important early evening appointment. You write off the

day: there are many who write off the week, and, on Thursday, there was a man leaving the course who was heard to remark "Only another 363 days to go".

The whole season culminates in the Festival. Since last autumn, each time you have congratulated connections of winners at Newbury, Haydock, Wincanton or wherever, they talk about how this performance will help or hinder the horse's chances at Cheltenham.

From the beginning of the year, they talk of "the bet of the meeting", under which heading there are folk holding ante-post vouchers for several dozen horses... and many more have backed runners who failed to make it to the starting post.

I shall remember the Festival this year for the voucher on Dubacilla that I have

CLEMENT FREUD



Afterthoughts

held since November, whose bottom line was £6,500.

I saw Dubacilla beat Docklands Express at Sandown Park and plunged... but the mare's odds went in the opposite direction to that I had expected. She ran three more times; she was beaten on each occasion and, on the morning of the Gold Cup, she was available at twice the price I had taken — but she did run, unlike Reikell, whom I backed and who was withdrawn.

Dubacilla came second, but there was quite a long moment as they jumped the penultimate fence when it looked as if she might win. That is what Cheltenham is about; hope. In the bar after the race, the man next to me said that the winner had been the bet of the meeting. I congratulated him. "I wish I had backed it," he said. "See you next year."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

A ROBERTS PROPERTIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Ernst & Young, One Broadwalk Street, Bristol, BS1 2AA, on 21 March 1995 at 11.00am for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the sale of the assets of the company and the proposed terms of the sale.

NOTICE OF THE BOARD

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Director R. L. MOWEN

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CONTRACTS & TENDERS

BRANT ARTS AND LIBRARIES

creativity...

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Brant Arts and Libraries last year celebrated a century of providing quality service. We are now seeking partners to help us sustain this quality into our next century of service. We are inviting tenders for the following Arts Contracts:

■ Music Ensembles Service

■ Photography & Film Service

■ Welfare Green Library Centre Facilities Management

Maybe you work on your own, maybe you are an organisation. If you feel you have the imagination and the ideas to win any of these contracts, we want to hear from you.

Phone 0161 937 3148 and ask Daniel Goodwin for an information package. Or see our advertisement in the Official Journal of the European Community (date of despatch: 14/3/95).

We don't expect you to be like Michelangelo. But, like him, we do expect you to understand how teamwork can create something extraordinary. After all, he didn't paint that chapel on his own.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMARDALE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Ernst & Young, One Broadwalk Street, Bristol, BS1 2AA, on 21 March 1995 at 11.00am for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the sale of the assets of the company and the proposed terms of the sale.

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Director R. L. MOWEN

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION

PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344

OR FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Love all Dealer East

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EDUCATION

The great sixth-form battle

Teenagers are being lobbied as they seek further education, says John O'Leary

The advertising campaign is slick and aggressive: radio advertising, posters with a snappy slogan appealing to teenagers. But the product is not jeans or a new soft drink: the aim is to lure students into further education colleges. In one scene, a horde of lemmings heads for a cliff. Only one turns back to "go your own way". Cue Fleetwood Mac. The message is that lemmings stay on at school, when the cool option is to go to college.

For many parents, the safe option is to stick with the school. But the greater variety of courses at college and their children's desire for a more adult environment is frequently winning the day.

Tens of thousands of families are still agonising over the dilemma, as places are allocated for the autumn. The statistics show that results are better in school sixth forms, but the colleges say their ability to make such comparisons meaningless.

The growing popularity of further education and sixth-form colleges, aided by local-authority reorganisations that concentrated post-16 education in tertiary colleges, has resulted in most A-levels being taken outside schools. As more students choose to mix academic and vocational courses, the college proportion can be expected to rise.

However, opting-out has triggered a comeback by the schools. A steady flow of applications to reopen sixth forms — usually in the teeth of opposition from local colleges — has reached ministers. The trend was encouraged by John Patten, as Education Secretary,



Students at Tower Hamlets College, where "results are at least as good as those of schools"

who disliked the monopoly created by tertiary systems.

In the past year, 28 of the 46 applications for new sixth forms have been approved, and 37 more are under consideration. The result has been that in many parts of England the A-level market is the area of education where the Government's desire for choice and diversity is most obviously bearing fruit.

But with competition has come a breakdown in relations between secondary schools and colleges in some areas. Alexei Sayle's advertisements for North Tyneside and Tyneside colleges are one response. The campaign is already having an effect. At North Tyneside, which also sponsors a nightly commercial radio show, the number of students has shot up from 8,000 to 11,000 in little more than a year.

Most are adults on part-time courses, but the competition for teenagers taking A

levels or vocational programmes is increasingly intense. The colleges insist they are not running down schools. Advertising was the only sure way of reaching their target audience because a number of head teachers refused even to circulate leaflets giving statutory information on results.

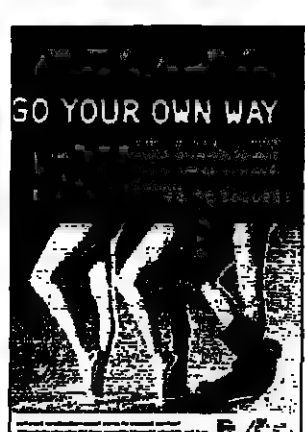
Paul Harvey, North Tyneside's vice-principal, says: "I recognise the financial pressures on schools to build up their sixth forms, and for many pupils, school is the right choice. But others thrive in a different type of atmosphere, and they must be able to make an informed choice."

Other colleges claim that a proliferation of small sixth forms can diminish choice, rather than increasing it, because only a large pool of students can make fringe subjects viable. The Further Education Funding Council has objected on these grounds to all but eight of the proposals for new sixth forms.

Annette Zera, the principal of Tower Hamlets College, in east London, cites examples of students recruited to unsuitable courses to boost school sixth-form numbers. "It cannot be in the national or local interest for there to be lots of small groups with limited options and uncertain standards. Our results are at least as good as the schools'... we are by no means the easy option."

Nationally, however, colleges' A-level results do not compare with schools'. Last year, the average points score in sixth forms was twice as high as in colleges, and Terry Melia, the FEFC's chief inspector, drew attention in his annual report to poor college A-level provision.

Peter Downes, the Secondary Heads' Association's president, does not defend schools that deny colleges access to small pupils, but claims that some colleges use questionable methods to attract students. "They have been known to



Tyneside: luring students

offer packages of the sort that banks give students, which we would not approve of."

For parents, however, the dilemma of school or college remains. Both sides agree that individual circumstances must determine the right choice. The character and quality of colleges, like schools, vary widely. The sixth-form college, for example, is likely to offer an environment much more like that of a school than a further education college.

The familiarity of school will be an advantage to many teenagers, and teaching staff already know the strengths and weaknesses of their sixth-formers. A more structured and often more disciplined academic environment should aid concentration, with fewer distractions.

By contrast, the larger colleges offer a wider range of courses than most schools, and often more extracurricular activities. Some teenagers respond well to the stimulus of new surroundings and a more relaxed atmosphere.

Examination records and the range of subjects are easily checked. Mr Downes, whose own sixth form at Hinchingshoe School, in Huntingdon, has almost 400 pupils, says: "I have reservations about small sixth forms. But students need strong advice, and that is where the careers service must have a strong input."

An audience with the prince of nihilism

Sheila Lawlor questions the wisdom of an education philosophy that substitutes doing for learning

Whitehall's palaces are the outward sign of official power. Today they come in all shapes and sizes: white and iced as the street itself; glass and concrete, the towers to progressive corporatism, or more recent facade-style, wherein lie the plaza suites of new managerialism.

The Whitehall official is the key to his department's thinking, and its battles with the political head. Although Whitehall is non-political in party terms, each department has its own doctrine. The Treasury is both keeper of the public purse. Here the doctrine is parsimony, irrespective of ruling party, and good sense, whatever the foolishness of power.

Education is an upwardly mobile department, in terms of location, spending and image. It has moved from the wrong side of the river, overlooking the tracks of Waterloo, to Westminster, where officials plan the new managerialism.

Nevertheless, despite the specialities, the Department for Education, to supporters and critics alike, is known to be "unreconstructed" — the code for sticking to its view of education as anti-intellectual, anti-academic, of doing, rather than knowing (of being, rather than mastering). Its power rests on huge public spending and manipulation of the publicly funded and public-sector bodies whose views and interests it reflects, shares, balances, manipulates, from the teacher trainers to the local education authorities.

Tomorrow night (The Knowledge, BBC2, 7.30pm) we shall have the chance to

VIEWPOINT

see one of the princes of this nihilism taking us through his vision of the destruction yet to come: Sir Geoffrey Holland, a civil servant whose career coincided with the great expansion and inward march of Whitehall and whose own departments — Employment and Labour — symbolised the new doctrines. In 1993 he became



Sir Geoffrey Holland

Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education. One year later he left, apparently because his minister refused to do what the Permanent Secretary demanded. Holland's mission, which would end any prospect of sense in our schools, has continued unabated; and his TV film is but the latest of many interventions in a campaign which mistakes doing for learning in the Whitehall he knows so well.

There will be no surprises in this vignette to dedicated followers of educationalists over the last 30 years, and the excruciating clichés which provided, then as now, the

soundbites of destruction: the small children in a primary school playing their Indonesian musical instruments are being introduced to the world of the future by doing, rather than reading a map (the multicultural aspect unconcerned by literacy).

Sir Geoffrey wants more universal adoption of such methods. Lifelong learning begins "by treating children as consumers". He favours the approach at a Hampshire secondary school which "breaks down barriers", where knowledge is far less important than "skills".

The Hampshire head's aim, straight from the manuals, is "to subvert the system". And so the predictable cycle continues. A levels, as we have learnt to expect from a civil servant whose departments have been determined to see them off for decades, are, as he novelistically explains, "long past their sell-by date".

Training, too, must become more consumer-friendly — traditional ways "can demotivate the students"; work-based training must go so that school-leavers can be herded into further education colleges. The solution is hardly climactic: education and training must be merged in one Whitehall department.

What is the reason for this loathing of anything approaching a mind in mankind? Sir Geoffrey's skills are those of the manipulator. Rarely has one seen so naive an attempt to engage the interlocutors so as to produce the right sounds in so uncritical a fashion. But that remains Whitehall's strength: each department has its own doctrine, and ministers go against its ethos at their peril. The author is deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies.

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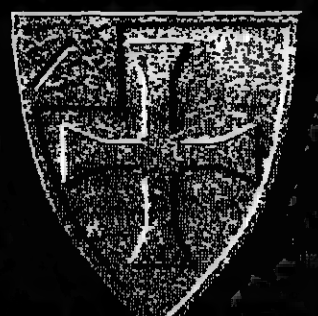
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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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The GILT Guide

Investors are switching to Government Securities (GILTS). This guide is an excellent reference manual. It explains Government linked fixed interest investments, including explanation of interest and type of investors suited to GILTS. FREE to Times readers.

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drop

Villa's old soldiers in battle to avoid drop

Recovery in jobs 'slowing'

Recovery in the job market may be slowing down, according to the latest survey from Manpower, the employment agency.

Based on responses from 2,100 employers across the country, the Manpower survey shows that a balance of 12 per cent of employers — those forecasting a rise set against those predicting a fall — believe jobs will rise in the three months to the end of June. While this figure is higher than the 10 per cent balance for the same time last year, Manpower said that the size of the swing in the figure compared to the previous quarter "shows some signs of a slowdown".

The Government's Youth Training programme — its main scheme for young unemployed — is in danger of becoming a "second-rate option" for both employers and school-leavers, a new report by Industrial Relations Services, the employment analysis, says today.

Bank stakes

SG Warburg, the investment bank, saw its lead position in the City eroded last year, according to the latest edition of *Crowford's*, the annual City directory. Its lead was cut by more than half after its client list shrank and that of Schroders grew strongly. Warburg stays second to Cazenove in stockbroking.

Morgan deal

Morgan Crucible, the materials technology group, has acquired three businesses in the US for \$34.6 million, using part of the cash raised through the disposal of the Holt Lloyd's car care business. About \$30 million is for Pure Carbon, which makes and supplies mechanical seals, bearings, vanes and rotors.

Russia link

Mercury Communications has launched the first digital private-circuit link between Britain and Russia's Rostelecom, allowing business customers to bypass the static-prone satellite system or public analogue lines.

One banknote in a hundred is a forgery, say retailers

By MARTIN WALLER

ONE banknote in every hundred in circulation in Britain is a fake, according to estimates from retailers, after a surge in counterfeiting spurred on by advances in computer technology and cheap colour copying.

Banknote fraud in Britain has yet to reach the levels recorded last week in Moscow, where reports say one in every four dollars, for many Muscovites the favoured currency, is fraudulent and printed by the powerful mafia.

But the scale of the problem has escalated to the point that some retailers are refusing to handle certain notes. More worryingly, the rise in banknote fraud is almost impossible to define because the fakes pass for the real thing.

The big clearing banks have instructions to inform the police whenever a fraudulent note turns up at one of their branches, but the over-stretched police forces often do not react. Instead the notes are sent to the Bank of England.

The Bank never gives out figures for how many fake notes are picked up every year. But the Bank claims those it has identified represent only a "tiny fraction of 1 per cent" of

the notes in circulation, a view echoed by the Home Office-funded National Criminal Intelligence Service.

The NCIS records that last year fake notes worth £17.3 million were recovered, almost £12 million of them before they reached the streets.

In other Western countries the past half-decade has seen banknote fraud rise more than tenfold, a trend which there is no reason to suppose has been mirrored in Britain. In West Germany, for example, the Bundesbank detected almost 42,000 dud notes in 1993, worth a total of DM5.7 million. This compared with 14,000 the year before and fewer than 3,500, worth DM304,000, in 1989.

As a result, the Bundesbank launched a publicity campaign last year and expects the 1994 figures, due shortly, to show a drop.

The figure of 1 per cent fake notes in Britain is an internal estimate by the Retail Consortium, says Tim McCough, secretary of its security committee. This probably underestimates the problem, because forgers inevitably concentrate on higher denominations. In some areas, the £50 note is no

longer legal currency, to the extent that the counterfeiters are now more likely to concentrate on £20 notes.

Jeremy Marshall, chief executive of De La Rue, which prints notes, says: "It's a growing problem, but it's genuinely difficult to give numbers. You just don't have the information to quantify it."

He points out that the pound is rather less suited against than other major currencies. The dollar, for example, has the twin advantage to the counterfeiter that it is used as a secondary currency almost anywhere in the world and is relatively easy to fake because the greenback contains few security features.

The war with the forgers is a classic offensive/defensive technology race. Holograms, for example, are by now old hat. Many in the printing industry are looking to developments such as optically variable ink, which changes colour on the note as the light shifts, or so-called kinegrams, super-holograms already used in some Canadian and Swiss banknotes. But the only certainty is that one day the criminals will catch up.



Real or fake: part of the Bundesbank's anti-fraud campaign

NAG Telecom buys Rymans for £5m

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE receiver to Pentos has sold the Rymans chain, the last part of the failed Pentos group, to NAG Telecom, a mobile-phone supplier, for about £5 million. About 600 jobs will now be saved.

Theo Paphitis, chairman of NAG, beat off five rival offers, including one from the chain's franchisees, to secure control. NAG already operates concessions selling mobile phones in 25 of the 110 Rymans stores.

Mr Paphitis is keen to expand the chain's presence in the mobile-phone sector as well as other areas of high-tech office equipment. He is also looking to move outside its territorial heartland in the South East.

The purchase price is well below the £15 million the

banks had originally been looking for. However, the receiver, which had been pushing for a quick sale to prevent disruption to trading, persuaded them this was unrealistic. Rymans incurred a loss of £4.7 million last year.

KPMG, which was appointed receiver on March 1, has sold all three parts of the Pentos group as going concerns. Dillons, the bookshop chain, was bought by Thorn EMI for £36 million the day after the receivership was announced. Pentos's office furniture business, which was not in receivership, was sold to Bulloagh for £9.2 million a week later.

Barclays and Midland, Pentos's bankers, have reaped about £50 million of the £70 million owed to them.

Firms are warned of telephone paralysis

By ERIC REGULY

be done by the company that installed the alarm.

BT said that as many as 20,000 small businesses still have equipment that prevents calls being made to numbers with the new prefixes. On Phoneday, prefixes expand through addition of a "1" (the central London code, for instance, goes from 071 to 0171).

The change applies across the country except for Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester and Bristol, which will be given new codes. To make Phoneday even more hectic, the code for making an international call from Britain also changes, from 010 to 00, as part of the European harmonisation programme.

Mercury said that failure to reprogram telephone systems

will result in higher telephone bills for Mercury customers.

Mercury equipment automatically sends national long-distance and international calls over its own network; local calls are completed on BT's network. Unless customers adapt their systems, local calls will automatically be completed on Mercury's network, whose local-call fees exceed BT's.

The Office of Telecommunications (OfTel), the custodian of telephone numbers, is promising more confusion to come. The 01 prefix, it is launching next month, is merely the first of eight prefixes, from 02 to 09, destined for use. OfTel proposes using 02 for new subscribers; the 01 prefix does not actually depend on the available stock of numbers.

Book rules 'raising prices'

By COLIN NARBROUGH



Hely Hutchinson: sales up

BRITISH readers pay, on average, 70 per cent more for hardback bestsellers than do American book-buyers because of the UK Net Book Agreement (NBA), according to Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of Hodder Headline, the publisher.

In a speech to the centenary gathering of the Booksellers' Association in London at the weekend, he said that the NBA's effect in keeping hardback prices high and restraining volume sales also contributed towards making British paperback bestsellers 40 per cent more expensive than their US equivalents.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said that British readers had

turned almost exclusively to paperbacks because of NBA restrictions, and the success of paperbacks was heavily subsidising hardbacks.

The NBA was introduced a century ago to prevent cut-throat price competition by grocers and haberdashers from ruining traditional booksellers.

The Restrictive Practices Court, which has previously allowed publishers to continue to impose minimum prices, has been asked by the Office of Fair Trading to review its position this summer. The Commons National Heritage Select Committee is due to consider the issue after Easter.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said that since Hodder left the NBA

on Boxing Day, its sales had risen strongly. Hodder and Reed, which left the NBA earlier, together represent 15 to 20 per cent of UK book sales.

Publishers' Weekly figures indicate that US publishers sell 5 to 10 times more copies per capita of hardback bestsellers than do UK publishers.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.5847 (+0.0027)

German mark

2.1964 (-0.0409)

Exchange index

84.4 (-0.7)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

2362.2 (+50.3)

FT-SE 100

3089.3 (+68.2)

New York Dow Jones

4073.65 (+38.04)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

16251.23 (-107.15)

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$

16.82

Austria Sch

13.52

Belgium Fr

48.76

Canada Cdn

0.751

Cyprus Cyp

0.896

Denmark Dk

8.46

Finland Fmk

7.49

France Fr

0.35

Germany Dm

2.37

Greece Dr

379.00

Hong Kong \$

12.95

Italy Lire

276.00

Japan Yen

156.50

Malta

0.539

Netherlands Gld

2.341

Norway Kr

10.50

Portugal Esc

204.50

S. Africa Rand

5.28

Spain Ptas

211.00

Sweden Kr

12.07

Switzerland Fr

1.98

Turkey Lira

164.92

USA \$

1.607

Bank of England

2.07

Bank of France

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Bank of Italy

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Bank of Japan

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Bank of Netherlands

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Bank of USA

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Bank of West Germany

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Bank of Yugoslavia

379.00

Bank of the Republic of China

12.95

Bank of the Republic of Korea

276.00

Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

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Bank of the Republic of Singapore

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Bank of the Republic of Taiwan

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Barring accidents, Clause Four in Labour's reformed constitution will contain an eccentric sentiment. "We work", its says, "for a dynamic economy...". Perhaps this is no more than an echo of Harold Wilson's "white heat" of 30 years ago. But the nominal purpose of the change is to switch from the failed refuge of common ownership to rely on competitive market enterprise. Those 30 years should have taught that market forces are dynamic enough, without any help from a Labour Government. The unplanned industrial and information revolutions have proved all-pervasive and inescapable, while the Bolshevik revolution became another failed theoretical experiment. The drawback, for ordinary people, is usually that market forces are too dynamic for their comfort.

Words in a constitution, new or old, mean little, but these seem ominous for voters. For when the history of the current Government comes to be written, its failure will surely be seen in coping with the creative market forces it unleashed. People want a bit of stability. The economy needs it. Last week, Kenneth Clarke acknowledged, in effect, that recovery in the economy was not getting through to ordinary people. That justly loathed phrase "the feel-good factor", was born of marketing hubris, the idea that the macroeconomy can be sold as a product with qualities separate from people's experience of it. The Chancellor seemed to admit that this was

Dynamism for markets but stability for policy



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

a hopeless task. Crudely, gross pay is only barely keeping pace with prices, while taxes are going up. The taxes and prices index suggests the average earner would need an increase in income of 4 per cent and rising to maintain private living standards. As the Chancellor argued, part of the gap should be temporary. Once the tax burden has adjusted to the new higher rate of public spending, growth should translate into living standards. But that will not close the gap. The economy is also weaker than it appears, and taxes higher, because people feel less secure.

As any Third World citizen might testify, insecurity is relative. By most standards, the British are feather-bedded. By their own standards, life is going downhill. Strangely, politicians, journalists and other ideologues from traditionally risky walks of life have encouraged this fear. Nearly half a million steady jobs in former state utilities have been axed or doomed, to general public approval. Anyone with a supposedly safe career, say in the Civil Service or teaching, is sneered at as a privileged vested interest trying to escape competitive market

forces. Industry has made clear that jobs for life are a thing of the past. Ministers welcome this as the future. So does Tony Blair's Opposition. As Labour's new consumerism illustrates, former radicals who have lost their "ideals" tend to lay about any stable institution they come across to vent residual anti-establishment feelings.

The most tangible effects of insecurity and higher labour mobility have been to boost taxation and clobber the housing market. The next impact will be on pensions. Houses in most parts are relatively cheap compared to incomes. But more people fear taking on such a

high burden if they cannot expect steady employment. For the same reasons, lenders have become cautious. And the Government, realising that job insecurity among mortgage payers boosts public spending, has chosen to limit the impact by cutting support to homebuyers who lose their jobs. With insecurity, fewer people will be able to become owner-occupiers.

Labour's new Clause Four principles aim to put wealth in the hands of the many, as individuals, without the previous collectivist alternative. For individual families, the main items of wealth are owner-occupied property, financial savings and inheritance. Until recession took hold, the right-to-buy policy was a great wealth spreader. If Labour really wants to expand the wealth of the many, rather than take away that of the few, it will find that far harder if people are insecure. Far from working for a dynamic economy, or shocking it with a cattle-prod if it does not prove dynamic enough, the job of government should be to make a private enterprise economy work for ordinary families.

As Americans understand, market forces are revolutionary and the

constant changes they bring are uncomfortable for those who have not volunteered for them. As a result, democracies usually vote to look after the victims, requiring ever rising taxation. To avoid this, a government's task is to help to smooth change, occasionally setting contrary priorities and setting the right market incentives to achieve them. The costly mishandling of the rundown of coal will go down as one of the worst failures of planning to help a market economy. Labour is in danger of making similar mistakes with utilities.

The Archbishop of York seems to understand these issues better. As he has suggested, there is not much point treasuring platitudes about the importance of family life if you take away the fiscal incentives and accommodate market trends running against the traditional family. Families also save tax, explaining why low-tax Hong Kong gives such large fiscal incentives to families. Planning ahead to accommodate and channel market-led change is much harder than trying to run industry, more challenging than adjusting fiscal and monetary policy with the help of computer programs. Whitehall will not guess market forces right all the time and will then be tempted to reckon the market must be wrong. But if the economy is to be free to be "dynamic", government must try to cut the social cost. Labour cannot dodge that with its new platitudes.

Exposing a British defence secret

The Government claims to have a competitive defence procurement policy. Not so, says Ross Tieman

The Government's pretence that Britain has no industrial policy will finally be exposed this week, when MPs from two parliamentary scrutiny committees sit down to begin an inquiry into purchases of defence equipment.

For the first time, the Defence and Industry Select Committees will work together to uncover the secret government agenda underlying the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs from Britain's biggest manufacturing sector.

In the 1980s, the Government insisted it had only one strategy for procurement: competition. Cost-plus contracts. Suppliers were encouraged to fight tooth and claw to make weapons that would kill and maim the Queen's enemies. Cost overruns shortened, and efficiency improved. For the taxpayer and the services, at least, competition proved a success.

But the collapse of the Berlin Wall destroyed the foundations of this strategy. Without the Warsaw Pact threat, what were Britain's forces for? And what equipment would they need?

While generals, admirals and air marshals pondered, weapons programmes went on ice. In some areas, an emptying order book fed through to

manufacturers with dizzying speed. They began to issue dire warnings to ministers, at first privately, then in public. Not only was manufacturing capacity being lost, they said, but in some areas Britain risked losing the technical capability to design and develop weapons which might be needed in the future.

While the Government and generals dithered, UK arms chiefs quickly realised that they shared a problem with their European colleagues. Shrinking national markets and the rising cost of developing weapons made international mergers essential for economies of scale to be achieved. Yet this would be impossible without more common procurement programmes.

For Britain's national champions, the growing enthusiasm throughout Europe for collaboration in arms manufacture coincided with the appointment of Michael Heseltine as President of the Board of Trade. While keeping a low public profile, he opened his door to defence manufacturers, and listened carefully to what they said.

He was fortunate to have a pragmatic Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, as the industry's chief customer. The pace of convergence has been accelera-



The UK has ordered 66 EH101s. Italy, which helps to make them, has yet to order any

ted by the enthusiasm of Roger Freeman, Defence Procurement Minister, to promote competition for Europe-wide contracts by Euro-consortia. Britain's hands-off procurement policy has collapsed as completely as the Berlin Wall, bulldozed by exactly the same set of economic forces.

A string of recent procure-

ment decisions provide the evidence. First, project Horizon, the next generation frigate programme. For the first time, Britain, France and Italy have agreed to design and equip a warship that will be used in near-identical versions by the navies of all three countries.

Second, the next generation of air transport, known as the Future Large Aircraft, or FLA. In a crushing defeat for Royal Air Force traditionalists, the Ministry of Defence decided last autumn on a split procurement to meet its transport needs. While buying extra Lockheed Hercules to reinforce the existing fleet, the MoD announced that Britain will rejoin the European FLA project, provided it is managed commercially.

The decision provides the opportunity to acquire a larger, faster, more cost-effective aircraft capable of carrying light tanks and artillery rocket systems. Purchasing variants for tankers, and perhaps maritime patrol roles, will cut RAF maintenance costs. But it also has wide-ranging industrial implications. Rejoining FLA will help to secure the role of British Aerospace within the Airbus Industrie civil aircraft-building consortium.

In both cases, Britain,

France and Germany will achieve a convergence of defence procurement cycles, facilitating a common approach to subsequent procurement decisions.

Industrial and defence procurement policies are now deeply intertwined. The decision to buy the Westland-Agusta EH101 helicopter for the British Army, announced less than a fortnight ago, was important to position Westland as one of the world's top three helicopter companies, and ensure it can compete effectively for exports.

Buying EH101 will oblige the RAF to spend an extra £300 million setting up maintenance facilities. Opponents argue that a buy-British, or buy-European, policy has substantial additional costs. This is a fallacy. Procurement policies that favour domestic manufacturers can prove to be the best value for the Treasury in the long run, because of the additional revenue they generate, and unemployment costs they avoid.

But securing the lead role of the defence industry in Europe will be a tough challenge, even with the full backing of the Government. France, which has the third-biggest defence industry in the

West, after the US and Britain, will fight hard to avoid being disadvantaged. And German companies, led by Daimler-Benz, are determined to claim a bigger role in arms manufacture and aerospace.

Until now, Britain has maintained its lead role, and helped to hold down procurement costs, through massive exports of successful weapons such as Hawk, Harrier and Tornado fighters. Challenger tanks and secondhand warships. Overseas weapons sales bring in £5 billion a year, matching or exceeding equipment spending by the MoD.

The challenge for the joint defence/industry committee inquiry will be to decide whether these policies are sufficient to protect the interests of national defence, and Britain's armaments industry.

Weapons systems have long development and life cycles. The strength of Britain's arms industry is founded upon equipment such as Harrier and Hawk aircraft, based on technology conceived in the 1950s. Some industry leaders argue that without more government support for core technologies research, there is a danger that the well of ideas will run dry.

At the same time, there are deepening concerns that inadequate government backing has resulted in British manufacturers selling their market share to overseas competitors in exchange for development funding. Italy contributed equally to the £3 billion development cost of the EH101 helicopter. The MoD has now ordered 66 aircraft. Italy has yet to buy any. Yet half the work on the aircraft is done by Agusta in Italy.

The Horizon frigate programme threatens another sell-out. Britain plans to buy ten to 12 France four and Italy two. Yet the development is being equally funded by the three countries. Is Britain getting a bargain, or through its purchases, funding research programmes for its European partners?

The issues are critical. In past collaborative programmes, such as the Tornado strike aircraft, Britain has maintained its own assembly line and earned billions of pounds through exports. If new weapons are full of systems built by continental partners, Britain's defence industry will be weakened, not enhanced. There is plenty for the committee to get its teeth into.

Bond aims for wedded bliss

ALAN BOND, the fallen West Australian tycoon, was never to be written off entirely. Even as he faces serious criminal charges linked to a French work of art and more than \$51 billion diverted from Bell Resources, he has decided to do new. The British-born ex-patriate, who rose to head the Bond Corporation, control Castlemaine beer, win the America's Cup and become Australian of the Year, suffered the dual blow three years ago of being declared bankrupt and seeing his marriage to his first wife, Eileen, fall apart. Now, almost 57, is about to tie the knot with a former air hostess 17 years his junior, a good friend since the early 1980s. The name of the lucky lady, Diana Bliss, could hardly be more suitable for Bond after all his troubles. As if a heaven-sent name were not enough, the wedding is ex-



pected to take place the day before Easter at Darling Point.

Old china's return
COULD it be because they keep on smashing the plates? Or it is because the Russians just love Wedgwood? The fine bone china group has just won another order from Russia - this time, to supply the Kremlin with a 50,000-piece

special service featuring the new Romanov crest. As part of this year's celebrations of two centuries of doing business with Russia, 250 pieces of the famed 952-piece Frog Service, commissioned by Catherine the Great, will be coming over to the V&A in June where they will be the centrepiece of Wedgwood's bicentenary exhibition.

AN OLD merchant bank they called Baring.
Was thought of as solid, if wearing.
But they gambled their fees on.
A trader named Leeson.
And positions in dire need of squaring.

Star attraction?
GOLDENEYE, the new James Bond movie being shot in France and Russia may be what troubled Credit Lyonnais is hoping will boost the sale price of its property. MCM Studios, and help to pay for the bank's costly rescue.

RADIO CHOICE

Living with a different set

Navrongo Story. Radio 4, 9.00pm.

When a Yorkshireman spends ten months of the year in northern Ghana as a member of an extended family, some social, metaphysical and gastronomic reorientation is called for. Jonathan Bean, a set designer from Ilkley, has been adopted by a Ghanaian family and lives in a mud and zinc hut. Barking guard dogs are a nuisance. Sometimes, as a delicacy, they get eaten. The millet diet is monotonous. Respect for the spiritual beliefs of others is not easy. When intelligent people swear to have seen a man remove his head, dance about, and then put it back again. But there are pluses. Wealth is measured in terms of friendship and the smell of rain falling on African dust is a rare sensuous delight.

Radio 2 National Big Band Competition All-Winners' Concert. Radio 2, 8.00pm.

If at first you don't succeed... Tonight's concert vindicates the adage's exhortation to try, try, and try again. Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra were twice runners-up in the competition's senior section. Third time lucky: this year Wigan won top honours in the section. Winners of the junior section were Aylesbury Music Centre Dance Band. On roof-raising nights such as this, it is perhaps invidious to talk of highlights. Instead, I can tell you that tonight's all-winners' concert culminates in the two winning bands triumphantly combining in Duke Ellington's *Take the A-Train*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Anon), including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Olve Warren (featuring The Amazing Spiderman, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Alan Parker 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 11.00p Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Fletcher 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 Hubert Group says Thanks for the Memory 7.30 Malcolm Lockwood 8.00 Radio 2's National Big Band Competition All-Winners' Concert. See Choice 8.00am Hansbury Lytton 10.00 Adventures in Jazz: Gaiter's Tony Perry in concert 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05pm Digby Fawcett 1.00 Colin Berry 3.00-6.00 Adrian Frighan

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.35 Euronews 11.00p Actuality 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl at 12.45pm Newsweek 2.05 Race on Five 4.00 John Inverdale 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Voices of the Old Firm: the rivalry between football clubs Rangers and Celtic 8.35 The Money Market 9.00 City v Ipswich Town 9.05 News Talk 11.00p Night Extra 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05p All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dea and Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rees 3.00 Wendy Lyon 7.00 Paul Coates 11.00p Nick Abbott 2.00-6.00am Jerry Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University. Language in Hand (Times) 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: Vivaldi (Soprano Recorder Concerto in G, RV45); Greg (Piano) Gylis (Violin Sonata, Torsio); Beethoven (Overture, The Creatures of Prometheus); 8.20 Songbook: Sitaris Wolf (Italianisches Liedchen); Kocchin (Les Bandes-Lop) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Robert Carver. Sacred and secular music of the early 18th-century Scottish court 9.45 Musical Encounters: Dvorak (Legend No 4 in C); 10.00 Artist of the Week: Maria Clara Alsin, organ, plays Poulenc (Organ Concerto); 10.20 Voices and Violets: BBC Singers under Bo Holten and Rose Corcoran of Violets perform music by Gibbons, Tomkins, Carter and Stravinsky; 10.45 An 80th birthday tribute to the pianist Svetoslav Richter. 11.25 C.P.E. Bach (Flute Sonata in B flat, Wq161 No 2); Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in D minor, La ceneri del diavolo) 12.00 Singing in the Ruins, with Richard Osborne 1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, with Barbara Bonney, soprano, and Thomas Schubeck, piano 2.00 Schools' 20th-Century Soundbites 2.15 Storybook 2.25 Let's Move 2.45 First Steps in Drama 3.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC Concert Orchestra under Martin Handley, France (Symphonic Poem, Les Cigales); Rimsky-Korsakov (Fantasy on Two Russian

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News 6.10 Prayer for the Day 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 News 6.35 Weather 7.25, 7.30 Sports News 7.40 Thought for the Day 8.40 History File 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvin Bragg and Times columnist Brenda Maddox. With Professor Frank Close, John Gribbin, Sheila McLean and David Malone 10.00-10.30 News; Dear Diary (FM only): The naturalist and writer Richard Mabey introduces his favourite springtime diary entries 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from St John the Baptist parish church, Dronfield, South Yorkshire 10.15 Something Understood (LW only): Journeys 10.30 Women's Hour: Jenni Murray meets the playwright Sharran MacDonnell 11.00 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. With Vincent Duggleby 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Dore Braban 12.25pm Counterspin: Last of three semi-finals in the music quiz. With Ned Sherrin 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; The Tree of Liberty: Second of a four-part detective series by Nigel Baldwin, set in 1791 America. In To Be a Pilgrim, Lacroix asks a sorcerer to help him to solve a ritual killing. With David Calder and Brian Hibbard 3.00 The Afternoon Shift

RADIO 4

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Lynne Walker reviews a new production of Mozart's Don Giovanni at English National Opera, and talks to David Jacob about Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*, by Philip Norman, read by Oliver Cotton 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 The News Quiz, with Barry Took (r) 6.40 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Monday Play: Once a Greek, Friedrich Durrenmatt's story about Amolphi Archonides, a man whose world is turned upside down when he advertises for a wife. With Jim Broadbent, Elie Haddad and Mia Soteriou 9.00 Newsweek Story: Sex Choice 9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Olivia Dorothy Bussey describes the emotional seasons and jealousies at a girls' finishing school in France. Read by Susan Bewell (LW) 11.00-11.30 The Travelers' Book (FM only) (r) 11.00-11.30 Education Matters (LW only), presented by Times columnist Libby Purves 11.30-12.30am The Vacillations of Poppy Carew (FM only): Penultimate episode of a six-part dramatization of the novel by Mary West, with Beatie Edney and Kim Wall (r) 12.00-12.45am News, incl 12.27 Shipping Forecast 12.45 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 89-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/151.5m. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 135. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m, 893kHz/230m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m. FM 97.8. CAPITAL: 1540kHz/17m. FM 95.8. GLR: FM 94.2. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGO: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1088, 1053kHz/2.5m. compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Mazzy

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هكذا من الامم

EU finance ministers meet today over currency turmoil

By COLIN NARBROUGH

EUROPEAN Union finance ministers meet in Brussels today to seek urgent ways of restoring stability to the foreign exchange market as the dollar heads for new lows likely to fuel wider currency turmoil.

The dollar-driven mayhem, which shows no sign of abating, contributed to a slump in the pound, whose trade-weighted index fell to

84.4 at the close on Friday, almost at its all-time low of 84.

Fears that sterling's decline against other European currencies will make it necessary to up UK base rates again could grow if February's retail price data, out Thursday, show inflation picking up. City forecasts, however, point to a dip in core inflation to an annual 2.6 per cent, from 2.8 per cent in January, Jacques Santer, European Commission President,

yesterday blamed America's benign neglect of the dollar for the currency turbulence and urged the Group of Seven to become more involved in stabilisation again.

Today's meeting will be the first opportunity for the finance ministers to discuss currency issues collectively since the Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo were forced to devalue two weeks ago. Their discussions, likely to market-sensitive, will not be minuted. The

flight of capital to safe-haven currencies, primarily the yen, the mark and the Swiss franc, produced a sell-off of the peseta and escudo on Friday, raising the prospect of them being devalued again only two weeks after the last cut.

The Irish punt and the French and Belgian francs were under pressure too within the European exchange-rate system (ERM). The pound and the Italian lira were no less vulnerable for being outside

the ERM. Sterling hit a record low against the mark of DM2.1890 and shed a cent against the dollar. The lira fell to new lows.

In spite of the slump in the pound, City analysts believe the Government is unlikely to raise base rates immediately, but is likely to have to raise them again next quarter. Avinash Persaud, currency analyst at JP Morgan, said the authorities' attitude was, rightly, that sterling was caught in

the cross winds whipped up by the weak dollar. "To raise interest rates now would be wrong."

"The concern is longer term. The authorities will not wish to clamp down hard. But the danger is that if they do not react at all, the pound will look vulnerable," he said.

Neil MacKinnon, currency economist at Citicorp, said that after failing to prop up the pound with interest rates when sterling was forced to leave the ERM in

1993, the authorities had to avoid siren voices calling for monetary tightening now, as higher rates would damage the economy and reduce demand for sterling.

Analysts expect the dollar to decline to DM1.30 or below this week, well below its record low of DM1.3450 and its Friday finish of just below DM1.3600. Against the yen, it ended at 89.10 yen, after coming within a whisker of its postwar low of 88.75.

The Pru sues PowerGen in fuel row

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Prudential, Britain's largest life insurer, is suing PowerGen over the burning of a controversial fuel at its Richborough power station in Kent, which it claims is damaging crops on one of its farms nearby.

The insurance company, which owns the 800-acre farm as part of its investment portfolio, and its tenant farmer are alleging that emissions from the 360mw orimulsion-fired station are causing a "peculiar form of damage" to crops.

The blow to PowerGen comes as Ed Wallis, its chief executive, prepares to face MPs tomorrow to defend his pay. Mr Wallis is due to appear before the Commons Employment Select Committee, which is investigating executive pay.

Last night, BBC's *The Money Programme* once again drew attention to PowerGen's generous share option scheme, which allowed its executive directors to cash in a £3.4 million profit last year.

Orimulsion is a bitumen-based fuel from Venezuela that is being imported into Europe as a cheap alternative to coal. PowerGen, which is estimated to be importing 1.3 million tonnes of the fuel annually, is also burning it at

the Ince station in Cheshire.

National Power is trying to win approval to switch its Pembroke station from oil to orimulsion. But the fuel has come under fire from environmentalists, who claim that it is dirty. This month, Dick van Steenis, a retired GP and a member of the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, raised controversy over the plan by claiming that childhood asthma cases could rise if orimulsion is burnt.

Dr van Steenis, whose claims have been dismissed by National Power, says that emissions of nitrous oxides, gases linked with breathing difficulties, would increase fivefold. Burning orimulsion can also raise levels of fine particles and emissions of the metals nickel and vanadium, critics say.

The High Court challenge, in which the Prudential and the farmer are seeking "substantial damages", could undermine National Power's plan and the fuel's long-term future. Prudential is also seeking an injunction to stop the generator burning the fuel.

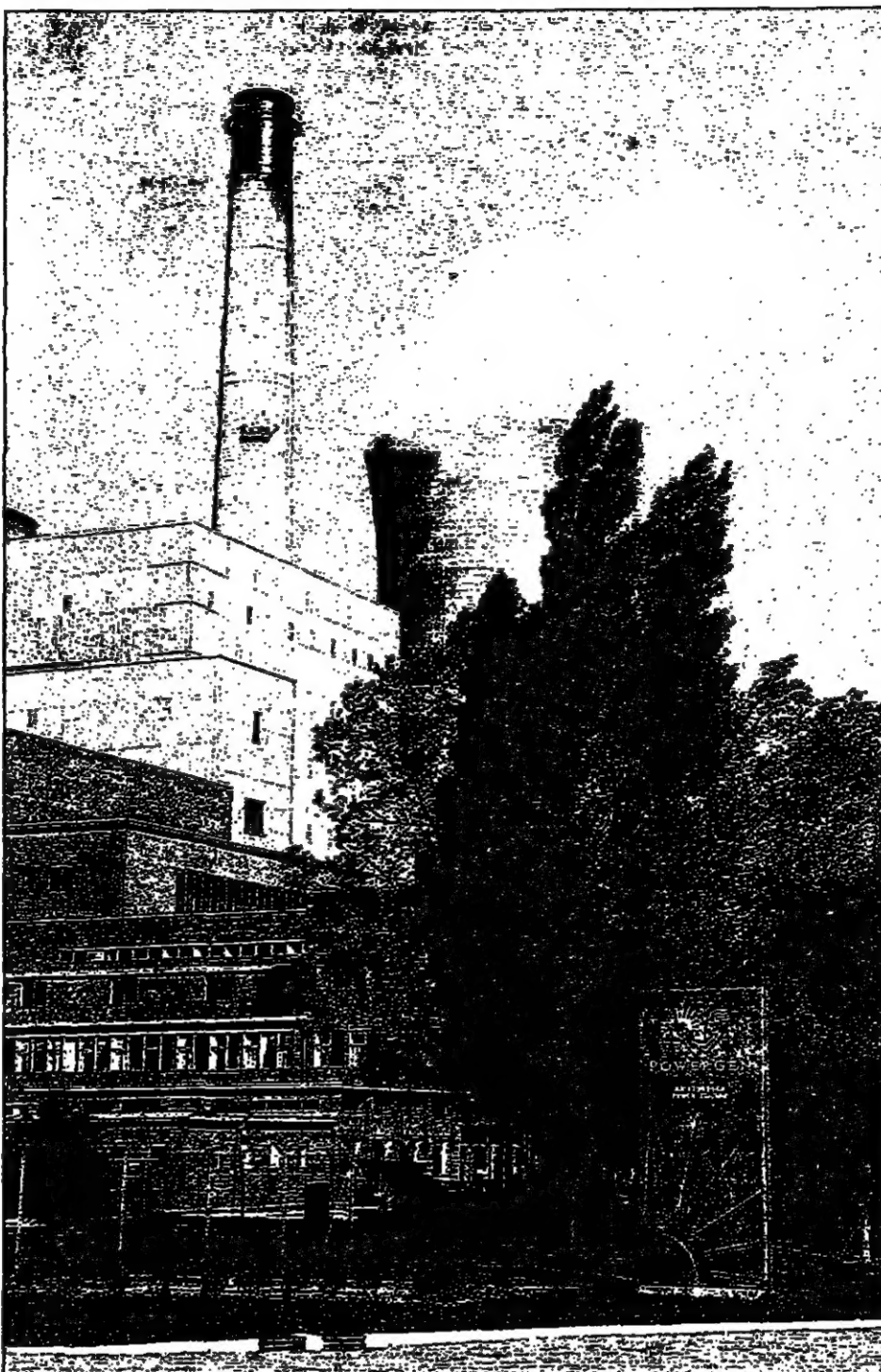
The writ, served by Lovell White Durant, the solicitors, alleges that vegetables have suffered lesions to their leaves and a reduced resistance to disease since the station began

burning orimulsion about five years ago. Heavy metals may be aggravating the impact of the particles, which have high sulphur levels, Prudential research suggests.

The Prudential claims that it has raised the problem with the generator since 1992, but that PowerGen has "offered no constructive proposals in response". Permission to burn orimulsion at Richborough and Ince was granted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution. But the company is required to upgrade emission control technology covering certain pollutants by 1998. A report by the London based *Environmental Data Services*, says that the generator has still not drafted plans outlining how this will be done.

PowerGen said yesterday that it would defend its burning of orimulsion.

Lord Northbourne, who farms near the Richborough power station, will today in the House of Lords bring in an amendment to the Environment Bill that seeks to prevent landlords being held responsible for pollution when the real polluter cannot be established. Section 54 of the Bill, as drafted, would give the Government powers to hold landlords responsible, even if they are not at fault.



The Richborough power station in Kent, which burns the controversial orimulsion

Post Office threatens union with cash crisis

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Post Office is telling leaders of its postal workers that it intends to withdraw union "check-off" arrangements under which union dues are deducted from employees' pay packets.

The move by the Post Office, chaired by Michael Heron, is the most significant financial threat to a union since British Rail withdrew check-off facilities from the RMT, forcing it into a financial crisis.

The Post Office's move is in addition to the legal attempts it is making to seek compensation from the Communication Workers' Union over a series of unofficial strikes, which CWU leaders privately acknowledge could fund the union with a £1 million bill.

In the High Court last month, the postal union was fined £7,000, with £100,000 costs, over an unofficial strike in London. Other unofficial action has taken place in Liverpool, Cardiff, Milton Keynes and Bristol.

Union officials believe that the tougher attitude by Post Office managers may be in line with their wish to demonstrate to the Government their commercial hard-headedness in the wake of the failure of the Government's attempt to privatise the Post Office.

The Royal Mail has written to the CWU, triggering an agreement to end the check-off. Although about 30 per cent of CWU members working for 87 pay union dues by direct debit, more than 90 per cent of the union's postal members — formerly the Union of Communication Workers — pay through check-off.

Under the terms of the new deal, which came into effect on January 1, if the level of unofficial action is judged to have led to a severe breakdown in industrial relations, the Post Office can give notice of withdrawal of the check-off. That is followed by a period of fact-finding, a 14-day cooling-off period and then a six months' withdrawal notice.

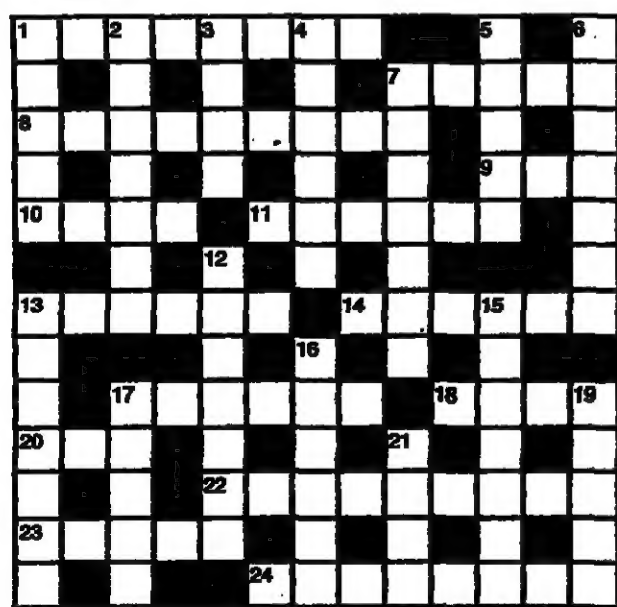
With the 14-day period now under way, CWU leaders acknowledge that the Post Office's move is now a serious threat to the union. While they hope that the Post Office will not give six months' notice, they accept that the Royal Mail is taking determined steps to convince its employees that it will no longer tolerate unofficial industrial action.

Alan Johnson, joint CWU general secretary, yesterday called on the Royal Mail not to proceed with the move, which he said was worrying for the union, and which potentially placed it in serious difficulties.

While the Post Office maintained that it had not formally proposed the ending of check-off, it said that the Royal Mail had made it clear to the union that its "co-operation with running the check-off system relies on the union adhering to the agreed procedures for industrial disputes".

There had been a number of "wildcat strikes", and the Royal Mail could not tolerate such disruption to its services when union members were taking "unlawful" industrial action. Leaders of the CWU will today announce that its members have overwhelmingly voted to maintain the union's political fund, under which it affiliates to the Labour Party.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 424

ACROSS

- 1 An idle optimist (David Copperfield) (8)
- 7 Eat grass (5)
- 8 Sort of dive; folding-blade cutter (9)
- 9 Food in shell (3)
- 10 Called; part of ladder (4)
- 11 Fluid (6)
- 13 LP needle (6)
- 14 Without result (2,4)
- 17 Self-assurance (6)
- 18 Brief moment (4)
- 20 Container; tree (5)
- 22 Convert; face about (4,5)
- 23 Hard, dark, tropical wood (5)
- 24 Where literature is sold (8)

DOWN

- 1 Army officer; important (5)
- 2 East Ender (7)
- 3 Arouse; funeral party (4)
- 4 Magical preparation of alchemists (6)
- 5 Laid with stone (5)
- 6 Boxers' pre-fight check (5-2)
- 7 Real (7)
- 12 (High) standard; characteristic (7)
- 13 Slaver (7)
- 15 Horizontal component of bearing (7)
- 16 Little creature in 9 (6)
- 17 Established principle (5)
- 19 Sick and tired (3,2)
- 21 (Africans') hard journey (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 423

ACROSS: 8 Avarice 9 Fichu 10 Milestone 11 Rug 12 Lat-in 14 Twaddle 15 Swagger 17 Actor 19 Rap 20 Alcohol-ic 22 Caste 23 Shotgun
DOWN: 1 Mammal 2 Pail 3 Airt and graces 4 Deport 5 After a fashion 6 Accredited 7 Bungle 13 Trappist 15 Strict 16 Recast 18 Recant 21 Log/le

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Bank tops Jupiter team bid

THE directors of Jupiter Tyndall, the fund manager, have abandoned plans for a management buyout after receiving a knockout takeover offer from Commerzbank, the German bank, which will allow them to earn millions of pounds in performance-related bonuses (Neil Bennett writes).

Commerzbank emerged this weekend as the victor of a three-month auction for Jupiter. Its offer tops a proposed management buyout and will come with a generous performance-related bonus scheme.

The agreement has not been finalised, but the bank is expected to bid more than £160 million for the group, or 400p a share. ABN-Amro, the Dutch bank, and its German rival Dresdner, also bid. A spokesman for Jupiter yesterday refused to comment on the negotiations.

Rail chiefs tackle queues with ring-and-ride idea

By ROSS TIEMAN AND JONATHAN PRYNN

RAIL chiefs are planning a new privatised computer ticketing system that they hope will banish for ever the frustration of ticket office queues and constantly engaged train information lines.

By making just one telephone call, passengers would be able to find out details of fares and journey times to anywhere in the country and also book their seats. The service would be available 24 hours a day and would probably be charged at local-call telephone rates.

Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, wants an integrated ticketing system to be developed as a priority by private-sector operators taking over rail services.

He believes that the current chaotic system, whereby people wanting to travel by rail have to ring a station in order to find out about ser-

vices and then call a separate number to make a reservation is driving passengers off the railways.

Mr Salmon also hopes that the new system will allay the fears of Conservative MPs alarmed by reports of deep cuts in the number of stations selling "through tickets" for any destination on the network.

In the long term, Mr Salmon and the Government want to transform the public's attitudes towards train travel so that buying a ticket at a station, rather than by telephone, becomes the exception rather than the rule.

As well as details of train times and prices, the system will carry information on engineering work and delays, allowing travellers to avoid delays. The system will be neutral between different train operators, and offer unbiased

advice about the best route to take.

The system, still in its early stages of development, although it is believed that at least one American company has offered to set up the ticket sales system in exchange for a percentage of each ticket sold.

Discussions about setting up the system have been held with the British Rail Board and with the Association of Train Operating Companies. The ticket system is expected to be run by the central "clearing house" being set up to allocate revenue for journeys, involving trains run by more than one operator.

The clearing house is to come into operation on May 28. In an effort to speed development of the system, Mr Salmon will make membership of the clearing house compulsory for any holder of a train operating franchise.

Headhunting heightens dirty tricks tension

BA woos Branson man aboard

By MARTIN WALLER



Branson: growing problem

BRITISH AIRWAYS has hired a senior lieutenant of Richard Branson. Roger Flynn, who had worked for Virgin Group since 1988, is joining the world's favourite airline next month.

The two companies have been at virtual war since Virgin accused BA of dirty tricks against its airline operations. The matter is still the subject of a \$1 billion damages claim by Virgin in the US, while a High Court damages claim in London is set to start in May.

Mr Flynn will be general manager of world sales and

marketplace distribution, a title covering a range of marketing jobs, including the various offers BA makes to its customers.

Mr Flynn, an accountant, was commercial director of Virgin Communications and has worked in computer-based distribution, entertainment and publishing. Significantly, he had therefore never been employed by the airline. Industry sources say his departure is an example of a growing problem for Mr Branson, which is how to encourage senior management and persuade them to

stay with his private company.

Mr Flynn can expect a significantly higher salary at BA and is also likely to be offered share options. Mr Branson is not known to be especially free with equity in the group he founded.

Virgin has put in a bid for MGM's British cinemas, which are being sold by Credit Lyonnais. The size of the offer is believed to be worth about £150 million. Other bidders are thought to include Carlton Communications, The Rank Organisation and Sony.



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HUNDREDS of people have been warned to stay away from a gas station in Kent, which is suspected of being a source of religiously motivated violence. The station, which is owned by a group of religious extremists, is suspected of being a source of religiously motivated violence. The station, which is owned by a group of religious extremists, is suspected of being a source of religiously motivated violence. The station, which is owned by a group of religious extremists, is suspected of being a source of religiously motivated violence.

Aids dentist
on register

Vikram Advani, a dentist, is on the register for six months after the transfer of his registration from the General Dental Council. The General Dental Council, which is the regulatory body for dentists in the UK, has decided to place him on the register for six months after the transfer of his registration from the General Dental Council.

Labour looks at tax
on child benefit

The Labour leadership is seriously considering a tax child benefit at 40 per cent where either parent is a high rate taxpayer as part of a shake-up of the welfare state. Senior Shadow Cabinet members reject taxing basic rate taxpayers.

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